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Hijacked plane

Pakistan supports any Syrian action

By Shahid Orakzi
Arab News Correspondent

RAWALPINDI, March 9 — A government spokesman Monday said Pakistan will have no objection to any Syrian "appropriate measures, including a commando action," to release more than a hundred people aboard a hijacked PIA Boeing 720 which landed at Damascus in the early hours Monday.

The aircraft hijacked by three armed men last Monday flew out of Kabul late Sunday night in spite of Pakistan government's request to Afghan authorities to prevent the takeoff even by shooting the tires.

The spokesman said that the hijackers, who initially carried pistols, were able to "build up an armoury" during the week-long stay at the Afghan capital. He disclosed that a Syrian military official, General Khouri who was held at machine gun-point as he went up to talk with hijackers at Damascus was told that they carried two time bombs, grenades, machine guns and enough ammunition.

The spokesman was confident that the Syrian authorities would "fulfil their responsibilities" and tactfully handle the situation adding that his government had no plans to send a negotiating team to the Syrian capital. Recalling the difficulties faced by Pakistani officials in seeking release of the passengers at Kabul, he said the Syrian response, was "very positive" and "things would be much better at Damascus," he hoped.

Pakistan charge d'Affaires at Damascus had already picked up contact with the hijackers through wireless to discuss their demands pertaining to release of some 42 prisoners, including some of their relatives.

Pakistan government Sunday offered to release about 15 of the total 92 prisoners listed by the hijackers who demanded that the number be raised to 42. For the safety of the passengers the government agreed to review more cases of such prisoners who had minor criminal charges against them that permitted a lenient view.

The spokesman said that government would not accept the release of hostages in batches, as suggested by Afghan authorities, and would resist all attempts to prolong the agony of the passengers.

At a cabinet meeting President Zia condemned the "political blackmail and reiterated his government's resolve not to submit to such pressures. He also had phone talks with a number of heads of friendly countries.

The president was also delivered a message

Pakistan government reshuffled

ISLAMABAD, March 9 (AFP) — Pakistani President Muhammad Zia Ul-Haq Monday reshuffled his cabinet.

Eight members of the outgoing cabinet and a minister of state retained their posts in the new expanded 23-member cabinet.

President Zia, facing opposition criticism of his four-year-old rule, replaced some military ministers by technocrats, bureaucrats and former politicians.

But he retained the ministers for foreign affairs: Agha Shahi, defense: Ali Ahmed Talpur, finance: Ghulam Ishaq Khan, public works: Air Marshal Imamul Haq Khan, interior: Mehmood Haroon, education: Muhammad Ali Hoti, food: Rear Admiral Fazl Janjua and communications: Miftud-din Baluch.

The reshuffle followed extensive consultations with the political parties. Gen. Zia banned in October 1979 after indefinitely postponing elections.



Planning Minister Hisham Nazer

Nazer outlines economic plans

RIYADH, March 9 (SPA) — A round-table seminar attended by international businessmen Monday resumed meetings at King Faisal Conference Hall. The three-day seminar, opened Sunday by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, was addressed Monday by Planning Minister Sheikh Hisham Nazer.

The minister highlighted targets of the previous two development plans and the current five-year development scheme. He stressed that the objectives of the plans were being carried within the framework of Islamic system. He said that development was not restricted to the public sector but extended to the private sector as well.

"The former second development plan achieved the long-cherished targets of roads, seaports and airports, while the current development plan emphasized the productive bases in the country," the minister said.

"The national income has reached 15 per cent in the previous plan and that it is expected to drop down to 6 per cent in the present plan, but it will resume growth again by building a productive potential," he added.

The symposium was addressed later on by Dr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Sbeikb, the minister of agriculture and water who spoke about the role of the agricultural sector in the over-all economic development of Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Abdul-Rahman referred to the economic and political strategies applied for the integration of the agricultural sector.

He pointed out to the obstacles facing the development of this sector and the government procedures to cope with these difficulties.

He highlighted the agricultural strategies adopted to achieve food security of the Kingdom.

Nonaligned start talks on Gulf war

GENEVA, March 9 (R) — Foreign ministers of India, Cuba, Zambia and a Palestinian official assembled here Monday for the first meeting of a "goodwill committee" set up by the nonaligned movement to try to resolve the Iran-Iraq war.

The three ministers and Farouk Kadoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) political department, were due to start their exploratory talks at the Cuban mission later Monday. Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao arrived Monday morning to join his colleagues Isidoro Malmierca of Cuba and Lameck Goma of Zambia.

The four-man panel was set up by nonaligned foreign ministers at a meeting in New Delhi last month. The organization of the Islamic conference and United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim have also launched separate initiatives to end the Gulf war, so far without success.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tiler Turkmen, who is currently on a visit to Bangladesh, said Sunday that no miracles should be expected of an Islamic mission's efforts to end the Gulf war but he rejected any suggestions that the peace attempt had failed.

Turkmen told reporters after arriving in Dacca "it will be wrong to expect miracles in a complicated situation like this (the Iran-Iraq conflict)." The peace mission's members include Turkish Prime Minister Bulend Ulusu and Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman.

Ceasefire proposals made public last Thursday by the mission received a cool response from Iran and Iraq. But commenting on the apparent rejection by both sides, Turkmen said: "We have to wait until we receive official communication from Tehran and Baghdad. I don't think at all that the mission has failed," he added.

Kuwait opens new parliament

KUWAIT, March 9 (AP) — Kuwait's ruler Sheikh Jaber al Ahmed al-Sabah opened the country's first parliament in five years Monday by rejecting foreign interventions in the Gulf and repeating Kuwait's insistence on Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

He also appealed for close cooperation between the executive and legislative bodies of the government to "preserve the country's independence and stability."

The past few years have been characterized by challenges and accomplishments both on the outside and the domestic fronts," Sheikh Jaber told the newly-elected assembly in his speech to parliament.

"During these years, the world has witnessed multi-party conflicts in which attitudes and interests interacted with repercussions extending to the Arab world, particularly the Gulf region," he added.

He said that Kuwait played "a distinguished role on the international arena over the past few years... and repeatedly feared foreign interventions in the Gulf affairs."

"We continue to insist on Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem, and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the setting up of their own independent state on their homeland under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization," he said.

Sheikh Jaber pledged that Kuwait would continue to shoulder its Arab, Gulf and world responsibilities.

During the opening session, former Planning Minister Muhammad Youssef Adasani was elected speaker and Abdel-Aziz Al-Sadoon deputy speaker.

Rescue efforts



RESCUE EFFORTS: An Argentinian rescue team in Buenos Aires retrieves a body from the wreckage of two trains which crashed. Forty-five people died in the incident.

Genscher to urge Reagan on N-talks

WASHINGTON, March 9 (AP) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, opening high-level talks with U.S. officials, is expected to make a strong appeal for the resumption of nuclear arms negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

West Germany is the key military ally of the United States, and American officials said before Genscher's arrival Sunday night that they expected defense issues would dominate his talks here. Of prime concern to the West German government is the Reagan administration's attitude toward NATO's December 1979 decision to modernize its medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

The European countries of NATO approved the decision because it was coupled with a U.S. pledge to seek negotiations simultaneously with the Soviet Union aimed at limiting such nuclear weapons by both sides. The two superpowers have had several rounds of discussions on the subject, but the negotiations were adjourned late last year.

During British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit here two weeks ago, Reagan reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to both aspects of the NATO decision — installing the nuclear weapons and negotiating limits on their numbers.

However, West Germany and other NATO countries privately have expressed doubts about the new administration's resolve to enter into serious talks with the Soviets on the issue. Recently, there was a strong opposition to the missile deployment by leftist members of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's Social Democratic Party.

In an apparent attempt to strengthen the hand of this faction, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev sent a message to Schmidt outlining Moscow's recent proposals for a moratorium on medium-range missile deployment. The message was sent on the eve of Genscher's departure for Washington. Both the United States and West Germany have taken the position that a moratorium would only preserve the current nuclear superiority of the Soviets in Europe.

The Soviets are reported to have 200 SS20 missiles targeted at Western Europe, while the U.S. deployment in Europe of 108 Pershing II and 464 ground-launched cruise missiles is not scheduled to begin until 1983. Schmidt has said he did not believe the Soviet proposals for missiles freeze go far enough. But in a recent broadcast interview, he had said he believed the deployment of the American warheads could still be avoided.

Genscher's visit also is taking place against a background of Saturday's announcement by the West German defense ministry that the Bonn government intends to cancel or postpone several major defense projects. The austerity measures reflect the country's new economic problems, and Genscher is expected to offer assurances that they are not a sign of a weakened West German commitment to the NATO alliance.

Latest strikes cripple U.K.

LONDON, March 9 (AP) — A 24-hour strike by thousands of British civil servants got under way early Monday, disrupting air services, tourist attractions, government offices and courts throughout the country. A nationwide pay dispute by most of the 530,000 civil servants brought airports to a virtual standstill as air traffic controllers joined the walkout.

All flight departures were canceled except for services at a few smaller airports managed by local authorities.

At Heathrow, the country's largest airport, terminals normally seething with activity were practically deserted, with most passengers having either flown Sunday instead or waiting for Tuesday. The nine unions involved in the dispute are seeking a pay rise of 15 per cent, from janitors earning \$110 a week to permanent secretaries in Whitehall ministries on \$72,600 a year.

The government, which recently gave in to the demands of miners and water workers, has offered 7 per cent, thinking that the civil servants' case lacks public support.

Among the tourist sights that were to close for the day were the Tower of London and numerous state museums and art galleries. Staff at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle were exempted from the strike.

But workers at unemployment and tax offices, government-run driving schools and weather centers were all affected. And unions also predicted that most crown and county courts would stay shut after the weekend break.

Although the 90 per cent support for the strike predicted by the unions was an optimistic forecast, according to government sources, widespread dislocation of the general running of the country was inevitable. The stoppage will be followed by selective strikes, including one aimed at Britain's defense network.

Union leaders have declined to give precise details of their plan, but reports said almost 100 staff would go on strike at the government's communications headquarters at Cheltenham, west of London, and at a secret tracking station in Cornwall county.

Gulf states study plan

MUSCAT, March 9 (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia and five other Gulf states met in Muscat Monday to finalize a plan to bring their countries closer and safeguard stability in the area. The six Arab countries, aim to set up a community similar to the European Common Market.

During a two-day meeting here, foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Oman and Bahrain are due to initial the constitution of a Gulf Cooperation Council and arrange the first summit under the new system.

The council, consisting of a committee of heads of state and another of ministers, will form a framework for coordinating policies and will meet regularly. The summit will possibly be in Riyadh in two months time, officials said. The six states decided to boost cooperation after being threatened by a series of upheavals over the past two years.

They said the council would start gradually trying to harmonize activities in areas such as the economy, education and health. One important task for the council in its first months could be to solve outstanding problems between members unsettled border disputes, making it easier for the six to cooperate in other fields.

The council could later play a major role in coordinating oil policies of the member states, which range from Saudi Arabia producing 10 million barrels of oil a day to Bahrain, which produces 50,000. According

386-km expressway

Mansouri to sign contracts

By a Staff Writer

RIYADH, March 9 — Communications Minister Sheikh Hussein Mansouri Tuesday will sign contracts for the construction of the Riyadh-Dammam expressway. The contract has been issued in small parcels to expedite construction.

The 386-kilometer road is expected to total more than SR400 million, and will take 24 months to complete. The expressway will have three lanes in each direction with a 20-meter wide median strip.

The road also will have barriers to prevent stray animals from endangering traffic movement. According to officials, the road will reduce travel time and ease congestion of the existing highway. It will pass via Abu Huriya on the Gulf coast and also the ring

Israel hits F-15 sale to Saudi Arabia

TEL AVIV, March 9 (R) — The Israeli cabinet Monday denounced the U.S. decision to supply weapons to Saudi Arabia as a danger to peace in the Middle East.

(See related story p. 2)

In a communique after a meeting, the cabinet charged that Saudi Arabia's hostility toward Israel was "most extreme." It said that Saudi Arabia had called in the past for a Jihad to liberate Jerusalem and occupied Arab territories from Israel.

The Reagan government has announced its intention to sell Sidewinder missiles and extra fuel tanks for U.S.-supplied F-15 warplanes. The Israelis say the proposed sale contradicts promises of the Carter administration not to supply offensive weapons for the F-15s.

As the cabinet met, two of Israel's own F-15s slowly made low level circles over Begin's office. The government statement said "the cabinet endorses the opposition which the foreign minister expressed to the American administration regarding the supply of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia. These weapons would endanger the security of Israel."

Sadat to visit U.S.

CAIRO, March 9 (AFP) — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is to visit Washington toward the end of the year, State Minister Mansour Hassan told the daily newspaper *Al-Ahram* Monday. Sadat has intended visiting the United States shortly after the January inauguration of President Ronald Reagan, but then postponed his trip until the summer. Last October, Sadat suggested a U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli summit be held in Washington this spring on the Palestinian autonomy negotiations.

But the Egyptian president said he would not take part in any new negotiations before the Israeli general elections scheduled for June.

U.S. sends fourth murderer to electric chair in 20 years

MICHIGAN CITY, Indiana, March 9 (AP) — Steven T. Judy, saying "I don't hold no grudges," walked quietly to the electric chair early Monday and was executed for murdering a young mother and her three small children, department of corrections spokesman Tom Hanlon said. He said the 24-year-old murderer's last words were: "I don't hold no grudges. This is my doing, sorry it happened."

Hanlon said that just after midnight, Judy, who had resisted efforts to avert his execution, was escorted from a holding cell at the Indiana State Prison a short distance to a freshly varnished black oak electric chair and was strapped in. "He was very calm, and walked to the chair very quietly," Hanlon said. "He walked to the chair with no help." He said Judy was first given an electrical charge of 2,300 volts for 10 seconds, then a second charge of 500 volts for 20 seconds.

Under state law, warden Jack Duckworth was assigned to pull the switch that sent the lethal current through his body. Judy, who

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Kennedy forces to oppose arms sale

In league with U.S. Jews

NEW YORK, March 9 (Agencies) — Democratic Sen. Edward M. Kennedy told Jewish leaders Sunday that he and other senators will attempt to block President Ronald Reagan's plan to sell military equipment to Saudi Arabia.

On the proposed arms sale, Kennedy said in a speech before the American Jewish Conference that, "I oppose the administration's decision last Friday to sell advanced military equipment — with advanced offensive capability — to a government that has sworn to destroy the state of Israel."

The Republican Reagan administration proposes to sell the Kingdom auxiliary fuel tanks and advanced models of the Sidewinder air-to-air missiles for 62 F-15 fighters already on order from the United States. The administration said the plan was part of a larger program to expand military cooperation with Middle East nations.

A State Department press statement regarding the proposed sale said, "We have consulted closely with Congress during the past week regarding the serious deterioration in security conditions in the Middle East/Arabian Gulf region and the growing threat to our friends there from Soviet and other pressures. We have benefited from the Congressional views expressed and plan to continue to work closely with Congress on steps to protect our interests in that vital region."

The statement further explained that despite assurances the previous administra-

tion of ex-president Jimmy Carter to Congress that he wouldn't sell the accessories, the present administration is viewing dramatic changes of circumstances in the region. "The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the turmoil of the Iranian revolution, the Iran-Iraq war and the Soviet presence in South Yemen and Ethiopia underscore the instability in the region and the dangers of Soviet penetration and exploitation," the State Department explained.

The State Department report further said that the proposals for military sales are a sign of U.S. determination that the United States will move decisively and quickly to protect its interests and those of its friends and allies.

However, Israel also is slated to receive \$600 million in additional military credits over the next two years as part of the program to thwart what the administration says is a "growing threat" from the Soviet Union. Yet, Israel has broached new arms requests to the Pentagon in the aftermath of the announced sale of advanced equipment to Saudi Arabia.

In statements showing the Kingdom's desire to bolster their military forces, Crown Prince Fahd told reporters from the West German magazine *Der Spiegel* that Saudi Arabia is going ahead with its plans to build a strong and modern army able to defend its vast territory.

He said that Saudi Arabia "is free to pur-



Crown Prince Fahd

chase arms from any of its friends, either the Germans, the Americans, the French, the Swedish, the British or from any European country willing to sell what we want." The crown prince also stressed that Gulf Arab



Sen. Edward Kennedy

countries are capable of protecting their security and maintaining stability in the region. Fahd said Saudi Arabia considers purchasing arms from West Germany and other friendly countries as an important matter.

For Saudi Telephone payroll Computer system turned on



Eid Al Hussein

HAIL, March 9 — Saudi Telephone's Hail District Manager Eid Al Hussein hosted an inaugural dinner for the first completely computerized payroll and personnel system used in the Kingdom, the Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones reported Monday. The dinner was attended by VIPs from Hail and other Saudi Telephone districts.

According to a PIT press statement, the new computerized payroll/personnel system, which eventually will be adopted by all Saudi Telephone districts, will create a uniform management information base on each Saudi Telephone employee. This will allow the phone company managers to more efficiently allocate manpower resources, the report added. As a result, better service will be provided for subscribers, the statement said.

Hail District has been working over the past year to install the system. An employee master file was created, consisting of an individual record for each employee, containing all payroll and personnel data. This was processed through a computer program specifically designed for the Kingdom. At the same time, employees were trained in the field on the techniques to be used for recording all information, and new report forms were developed. For many months, the sophisticated computer system was run in parallel with the old manual approach, to ensure that any problem areas were eliminated before the inauguration of the modern computer system, the ministry reported.

The benefits that the Kingdom will enjoy from the new system are numerous. At a glance, Hail District managers can get information on employee service records, payroll amounts, time reports and records of overtime and absences. The new system also will provide, automatically, a full account of total manpower within the district, manpower movements by district and lists of employees by contract type. In addition, all information can be accurately. The old manual operations performed by each of Saudi Telephone's 16 districts can be consolidated into one automatic operation, providing uniform processing. Employees will be given a full accounting of their earnings, deductions, etc. For the first time, a comprehensive financial and manpower-related information base is available to managers, giving them effective control of their operation, the report said.

COMMENT

By Abdul Rahman Saad Al-Samari
Al-Jazirah

If we carefully pursue reports on car accidents, especially on the highways, we would notice that many accidents take place as a result of stray camels and donkeys. Such animals roam about the highways day and night and, to be specific, the donkey does not feel comfortable unless it stands still on the asphalted road. It never thinks about its fate and the fate of drivers, and consequently continues to pose a danger to human life.

In regard to camels, I will only say that their owners keep a watch on them and know where they are going. It may not be an exaggeration to say that they care for the camels more than their own children, for it fetches a fantastic price and helps them cover at least part of the cost of a de luxe villa.

The camel, as we know, is unlike the donkey which normally has no one to care for it. The matter, therefore, necessitates upon us to think seriously whether we should let loose the camel and make it a direct cause for the loss of human lives. So often have we heard that a few persons and, sometimes, the whole family, have died on the road as a result of their car crashing into this animal. What is still more strange is the fact that the owners of such camels go to the nearest police station to claim the cost of their beast. They show their concern for the dead animal's cost, but forget those people who lost their lives.

The state, on its part, has repaired and widened the highways for the comfort and safety of the people, but stray camels and donkeys continue to pose a problem that remains unabated.

Saudi Arabians contribute SR50m to Afghan fighters

RIYADH, March 9 (SPA) — The people of the Kingdom have donated SR 50 million to the freedom fighters in Afghanistan. The money was transferred Monday after a meeting of the charitable society set up the government for receiving donations to the Afghan Mujahideen under Prince Salman, governor of Riyadh.

The society was ordered by King Khaled shortly after the Soviet invasion and occupation of the country and has been appealing for private donations to aid the 1,500,000 refugees in Pakistan and the fighters against the Soviet invasion.

The check was given to Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference Habib Chatti to be forwarded to the Afghan leadership. The decision to help the Afghans was taken during a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Islamabad last year.

Prince Salman issued an appeal to the people to give generously and the first check was paid to Chatti by foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal in Islamabad during the conference. It amounted to SR 80 million which

Prince Saud described as a symbol of the Saudi people's solidarity with the Afghan people in their hour of need.

A fatwa, or religious ruling, by Sheikh Abdul Aziz ibn Baz, general president of the Board of Religious Guidance, followed King Khaled's appeal for assistance to the Afghan freedom fighters. The ruling permitted payment of Zakat, the 2 1/2 per cent alms tax on every Muslim's wealth, to Afghanistan Muslim fighters. The fatwa also cleared the way for payment of Zakat before the due time, during Ramadan.

Prayer Times

	Mecca	Medina	Riyadh	Dammam	Buraidah	Tabok
Tuesday						
Fajr (Dawn)	5.09	5.11	4.42	4.30	4.54	5.24
Ishraq (Sunrise)	6.34	6.36	6.07	5.55	6.19	6.49
Dhuhr (Noon)	12.31	12.32	12.03	11.50	12.14	12.44
Assr (Evening)	3.55	3.56	3.27	3.14	3.38	4.07
Maghreb (Sunset)	6.29	6.29	6.01	5.47	6.11	6.40
Isha (Night)	7.59	7.59	7.31	7.17	7.41	8.10

Wheat output increases By 100 per cent

RIYADH, March 9 (SPA) — Wheat production in the Kingdom increased by over 100 per cent last year, according to the Agriculture Minister Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Sheikh. It amounted to 130,000 tons compared with just 52,000 the previous year and a mere 18,000 tons the year before that.

Dr. Sheikh attributed the dramatic increase to generous government aid to the farmers, subsidies on farm equipment which amount to 50 per cent of the cost and the ministry's program to cultivate more land by providing water, seeds and other assistance. "In this way we have encouraged more people to attend to farming and increased the output of foodstuffs," he said.

Dr. Sheikh said that the capital will soon begin to receive huge quantities of water from the Wasei wells and the desalination plants which will process water pumped all the way from the Gulf, in the Eastern Region. In ten months, experimental pumping will commence, he said, and eventually supply 63,000 cubic meters of water a day in addition to the present amount. The desalination plant is already 50 per cent complete, he added, and should be ready to pump water in 16 to 18 months.

Earlier, *Arab News* reported that the Eastern Province branch of the Agriculture Development Bank granted 1,126 loans that totaled SR138 million during the past nine months. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al-Uwaifeer, the agricultural bank's Hofuf branch director, said the Hofuf branch alone has issued 760 loans that totaled SR54 million during the period. The loans were granted to 710 farmers, 31 beduins, nine poultry farm owners, four leases for agricultural machinery, three fishermen and a nursery farm project.



Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Sheikh

The branch also granted financial assistance to farmers and poultry farm owners that amounted to SR16 million. About SR12 million was allocated for poultry farmers, issued monthly in the form of fodder. The bank's loans during the nine months covered 5,780 donoms of utilized land and 17,000 of unutilized land.

In addition, Sami Labban, manager of the agriculture assistance program of the Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) said that farmers in the Kingdom may be producing enough crops within the next five years to enable Saudi Arabia to be self-sufficient in fresh vegetables year-round. He said that with continued development of a network of communications, marketing and cold storage facilities and of controlled environment farming in greenhouses, Saudi Arabia could replace imports of fresh vegetables during non-growing seasons by the mid-1980s.

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سازمان اسرار

China construction firm envisions major contracts

By Farouk Laqman

JEDDAH, March 9 — The Ret-Ser Engineering Company of the Republic of China expects to win road building contracts worth more than SR1,500 million this year, according to its President H.C. Yen who is making one of his periodic visits to the Kingdom.

Yen said roads will be built in the Southern Region where his company is already engaged in one of the most arduous engineering tasks in the world — the Shear Descend Road in Asir. The road descends from 2,000 to 800 meters through a 14 kilometer gradient, making it one of the most challenging road-building jobs anywhere.

Before starting work the company had to recruit professional mountain climbers from Kufwailen Province in south Taiwan in order to do the preparatory work and pave the way for the engineers.

Ret-Ser, formed in 1956, is already the largest company in Taiwan and is engaged in a variety of jobs at home and in other countries with its order book filled with contracts as diverse as roads and nuclear plants. Here it is building the naval base in Jeddah at a cost of nearly SR1 billion, its largest so far.

Altogether the company has done more than SR3.3 billion worth of business since it arrived in 1972 and sponsored by Alir-eza. It will soon branch out into industry by joining Binladien in a marble-making joint venture which will call for quarrying and using the marble for construction purposes.

With a staff of more than 3,000 in the country the company has undertaken a variety of jobs including participation in the ambitious Asir national park, a favorite plan of Asir Governor Prince Khalid Al Faisal who wants to develop the area into a summer resort and major national tourist attraction for the families who prefer to go abroad during their holidays.

"We have done rather well," Yen said "because we are dedicated and make no problems for those who work with us."

Sudanese ambassador to leave Kingdom soon

RIYADH, March 9 (SPA) — The Sudanese ambassador here, Alfatih Bisbara, will be leaving the Kingdom soon to take up his new job as governor of the Karadavaq region in his country. He was also made vice-president and has become one of the top six men in the Sudanese government.

In a farewell statement he said that Saudi Arabian-Sudanese relations have prospered during the last four years which he spent in the Kingdom. Economic, cultural, commercial and military relations have been developed under the guidance of King Khalid and President Numeiri.



H.C. Yen

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Akihito expresses thanks

Japan Bureau



Prince Akihito

TOKYO, March 9 — Japan's Crown Prince Akihito said Monday he was deeply impressed by the dedication and keen interest in the progress and welfare of the country and its people by the leadership of the Kingdom.

In remarks made upon his return to Japan after visiting Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Singapore, the crown prince expressed deep appreciation for Japan being regarded favorably by the Kingdom. He also said that he hopes his visit will further deepen the relations between Japan and the countries he toured.

The crown prince's visit was the first by Japanese royalty to the Kingdom. In 1971 King Faisal ibn Abdul Aziz visited Japan and that visit prompted Japan's interest in the Kingdom. It was in the 1960s that Japan's Chiyoda Chemical Engineering company presented the masterplan for the utilization of natural gas, which was accepted by the Kingdom.

BRIEFS

Youth Welfare president returns

RIYADH, March 9 (SPA) — Prince Faisal ibn Fahd, president of the Youth Welfare Organization, returned here from Paris Sunday evening where he opened last Tuesday the First Joint Gulf Cultural Week on behalf of Gulf youth and sports ministers. Prince Faisal was met at the airport by Riyadh Governor Prince Salman; Prince Fahd ibn Sultan ibn Abdul Aziz, labor undersecretary for social welfare; and a number of officials from the Youth Welfare Organization.

Tunisia beats Kingdom
RIYADH, March 9 (SPA) — The Tunisian team beat the Saudi team 2-1 Sunday in the cordial soccer match played at the Youth Welfare Stadium here. Saud Jassem scored Saudi Arabia's only goal at the 21st minute of the first half-time. The two Tunisian goals came during the second half-time. Saudi Arabia beat Oman 4-0 last Monday. It also beat Morocco 1-0 on Thursday. The matches are elimination contests for the world cup finals scheduled in Riyadh on March 18.

Rains fall
RIYADH, March 9 (SPA) — Heavy rain fell on most parts of Saudi Arabia during the past few days. It rained over Taif and Bani Malek, Bani Saad, Thamala and Haysan which had not been irrigated for the past 13 years. It also rained heavily on Al-Holwa at Hawat Bani Tamim last Thursday. Rain in Saudi Arabia is seen as a sign of blessing from the sky. When it does not rain for sometime, the King orders Istisqa or rain-seeking prayers throughout the Kingdom where the believers seek God's blessings and forgiveness.

Zaki Yamani in Bahrain
MANAMA, March 9 (SPA) — Sheikh

Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, arrived here Sunday evening on a one-day visit for the opening, Monday, of the second Petroleum Exhibition and Conference in the Middle East. In an arrival statement he said that the Gulf Cooperation Council will help increase financial cooperation among its members. He added that there were endless vistas for such cooperation. "Our duty," he said, "is to widen its scope either through the council or by other means." Gulf cooperation, at present, he went on, is confined to bilateral relations and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Donations to refugees
ISLAMABAD, March 9 (SPA) — The Mecca-based Muslim World League Sunday gave a large quantity of medicine, tents and foodstuffs to Afghan refugees. The gift was handed to Professor Abdul Rasoul Sial, the head of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan.

British Chamber in Riyadh
RIYADH, March 9 (SPA) — A delegation from the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce led by Richard Beaumont, the chamber's board chairman, arrived here from Taif Sunday as part of its visit to the Kingdom. Members of the mission had talks during the past two days with members of the Taif and Jeddah chambers.

Qasim projects inspected
QASIM, March 9 (SPA) — Finnish Industry and Trade Minister Ulf Sundqvist arrived here Sunday to inspect industrial and agricultural projects in the area. He was accompanied by Minister of Industry and Electricity Dr. Ghazi Algosabi; and the Finnish ambassador to Saudi Arabia.



VISUAL EXPERIENCE: Jonathan P. Terry uses a Friedmann Mk2 visual field analyzer — designed for the rapid and reliable detection of central visual defects — to examine a patient. The equipment, which can be operated by an assistant to produce information for interpretation by consultants or practitioners, will be introduced in Saudi Arabia when Terry visits as a member of the British Health-Care Export Council's trade mission from 20 March to 2 April.

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2. Mr. Mohammed Bin Sulaiman Bin Abdul Rahman Bin Qadeeb.
Address: P.O. Box: 17755, Riyadh, Tel: 4576049

3RD PRIZE: SR.500 (Three prizes)

WINNERS: 1. Mr. Fahd Abdur Rahman Al-Garalla Al-Khalaf.
Address: Riyadh Harith Al-Sulaimanyia
C/o. Mr. Youssef Al-Salah Al-Khalaf, Tel: 4762381

2. Mr. Ha Jung Doo.
Address: P.O. Box: 10779, Riyadh

3. Mr. Majid Bin Abdul Mohsin Bin Khalid Al-Sharif.
Address: Riyadh Educational Institute,
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Address: Al-Riyadh, Abi Tamam Secondary School
Hijaz Street — P.O. Box: 17059, Riyadh
Tel: 5471237

SECOND PRIZE: SR.1000 (Two prizes)

WINNERS: 1. Mr. Saeed Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Ghamdi
Address: Zakah & Income Dept: Head Office, Riyadh
Tel: 4776858

2. Mr. Ali Hamad Nasir
Address: C/o. Nasir Al-Abad,
Head Office of Girls Education, Riyadh
Tel: 4355921

3RD PRIZE: SR.500 (Three prizes)

WINNERS: 1. Miss Al-Joharah Omar Bin Hasan Al-Asheikh
Address: Aleeshah C/o. Mr. Abdullah Bin Omar Al-Sheikh, Riyadh

2. Mr. Mohammed Zaid Al-Oqaili
Address: P.O. Box: Al-Holwa, Hotat Bani Tamim, Riyadh

3. Mr. Abdul Aziz Sulaiman Al-Qammaa,
Address: Emirate Al-Riyadh, Private Office, Riyadh

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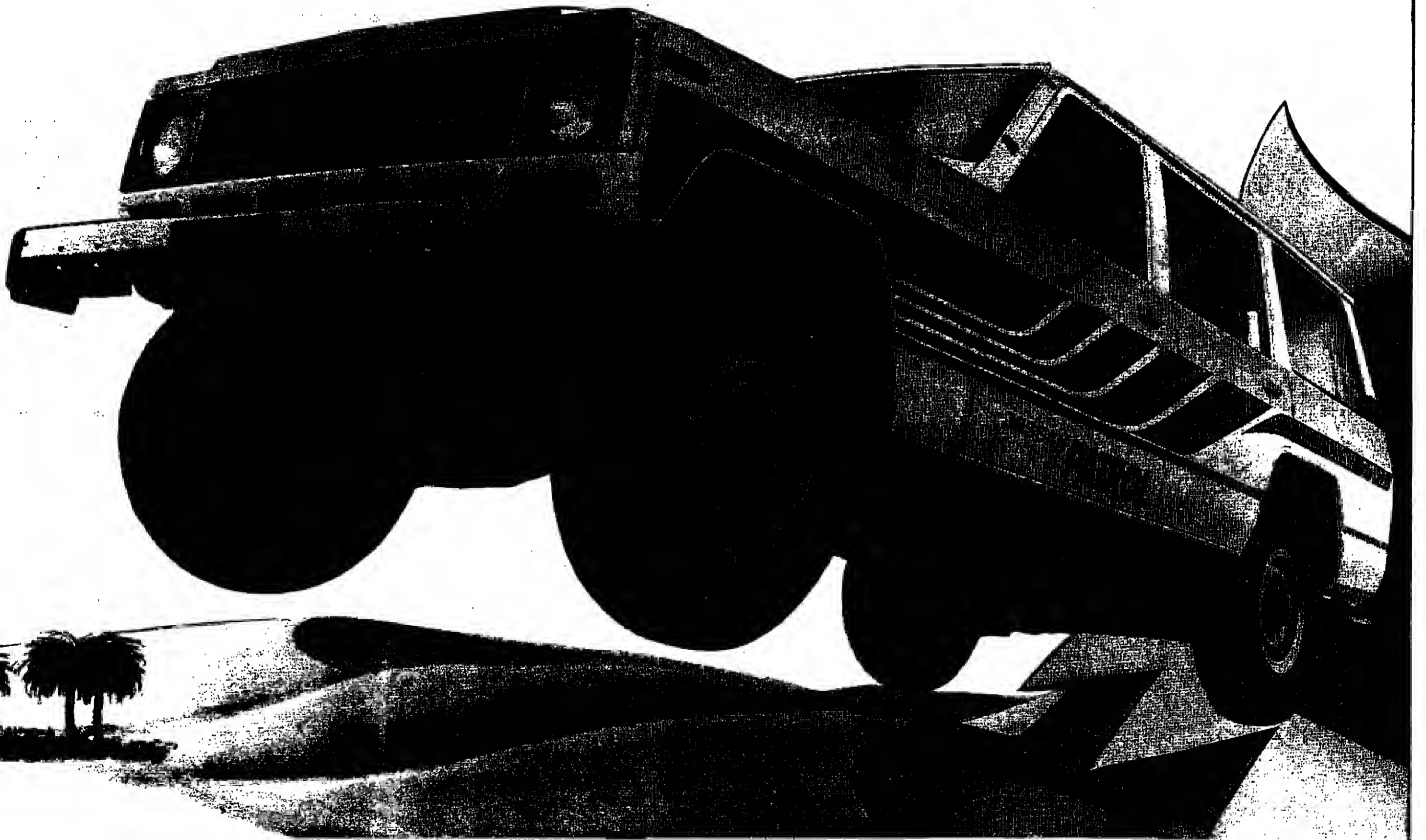


Mr. Mohammed Al Hassoon, Vice President (Sales) of Abdul Latif Jameel Co. Ltd., draws the names of the lucky winners of the Riyadh Motor Show Quiz Contest. On his right is Mr. Thomas Black, Vice President and General Manager. On Mr. Hassoon's left is Mr. H.C. Braund, National Marketing Manager, watching the draw, and on extreme left is Mr. Ziad Lama of the advertising department.

Abdul Latif Jameel Co. Ltd. extends a hearty congratulation to the winners.

The winners listed are requested to please contact Mr. A. Bamber, Branch Manager, Riyadh Branch, Abdul Latif Jameel Co. Ltd., Riyadh, Phone: 4910207 - 4913835 - 4913827, and collect their prizes.

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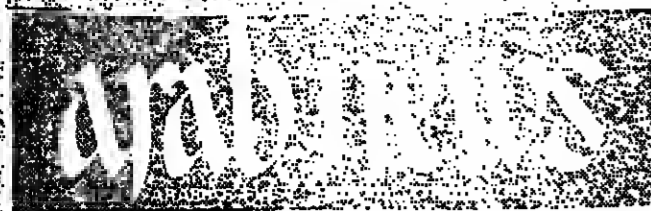


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PALESTINIAN PROGRESS

The international progress of the Palestinian cause goes unabated. The Palestinian flag flies for the first time over Tokyo; while the Japanese government considers extending an official invitation to Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, to visit the country. Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO's Political Department, goes to Austria to confer with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky on the latest developments in the stalled autonomy talks as well as on the still awaited European initiative.

Yet whatever the rest of the world might think about the rights of the Palestinians, and the legitimacy of the PLO as their sole representative, the Israelis press on remorselessly with their expansionist plans. Their actions having no base on morality or international legality, the only justification they can give is that of the "accomplished fact," the brazen piling of theft on theft, of violation upon violation, in the hope that the original, historic crime they committed against the Palestinian people is covered. This process is accelerating now, as the regime of Begin collapses. The Israelis want to maximize their gains so that the new Labor administration can pose as "moderate" — not a hard stance to take with the theft already accomplished.

The latest instance of this is the attempt to grant civic status to three illegal settlements on the West Bank, all chosen for their strategic importance. The move is intended to "normalize" and shed a veneer of legality over such blatant acts of theft. The wider aim is to place a further obstacle in the face of any solution based on the return of the territories occupied in 1967.

U.S. State Secretary Alexander Haig is to visit Israel in a few weeks' time and there is no doubt the Israeli move was timed to face him with this "accomplished fact." Will he simply take it in his stride, allowing U.S. policy to be drawn in Israel as so often in the past? Or will he come out clearly against it?



Does Brezhnev really want to talk peace?

By Mark Frankland

MOSCOW — President Brezhnev's speech to the Soviet Communist Party congress last month was as clear an offer of conciliation as the West is likely to get from Moscow. Its tone was all the more remarkable given the bad tempered state of East-West relations. For example, President Reagan's taunts about Soviet lying and cheating undeniably got deep under Russian skins but it was as though Brezhnev had not heard a word about it.

Is the conciliatory tone just a ruse to put a fire-breathing Reagan administration in a bad light, not least with hesitant West European allies? Or is it a real attempt to restore some stability to East-West relations? There is general agreement here that the latter is closest to the truth. Western diplomats seem agreed on this, though they may disagree about how far the Soviet Union is prepared to go.

Informed Russians argue persuasively that this is not just propaganda shot. Most convincing of all is the speech itself, in the context of the obvious problems facing the Soviet Union at home and abroad. It is arguable that the Soviet leaders do not really know how to get out of the impasse in East-West relations but it is surely clear that they would like to.

The offer of a Brezhnev-Reagan summit was the most obvious way to signal this. There is no reason to suppose that the Russians think this could or should happen soon. One very well informed Russian remarked that Ronald Reagan needed time to settle in: the Russians are great believers in the sobering effects of the exercise of power.

But there was something else of significance in the summit offer. No one this time has raised any doubts about Brezhnev's health being up to such a meeting. The Soviet authorities badly mismanaged the business of his speech by failing to warn that it would not be televised live. This naturally provoked speculation about his strength.

In fact, Brezhnev managed to read a shortened version of the speech lasting three hours and 40 minutes, compared to the five-and-a-half hours he spoke for at the 1976 congress. Not a bad achievement and one which confirms the judgment of diplomats here that after a period of poor health he has recovered a good deal of his powers. Of his political health there is no doubt at all. Speakers at the congress paid the most fulsome tributes to him, not least as "a brave and steadfast fighter for peace."

The importance of this for East-West relations is simple. Brezhnev has become personally identified with the policy of détente. Again and again over the past 10 years it has been restated in the most authoritative documents of Soviet Party and state. There is little doubt that Brezhnev will pursue it as long as he has the strength. To abandon it would be shattering, not least to Soviet public opinion, which is always agitated by signs of East-West crisis.

The question now is what moves does Moscow have in mind for improving relations with America. The speech suggested two, one openly, the other only hinted at, although perhaps it is the most important. The Soviet Union openly signalled its eagerness to renew discussions with America on the strategic relationship, even stressing that negotiations could lead to a mutual cutback in Euro-missiles.

The unexpectedness of some of Brezhnev's proposals, notably the readiness to open all of European Russia to confidence-building measures, has drawn attention away from the second and more tacit Soviet message, which was conveyed chiefly by the tone and balance of the Brezhnev speech.

Well-informed Russians have confirmed that here the Soviet leadership did want to signal to the West that it realizes that its interests as a superpower have to be balanced against its enthusiasm for world revolutionary movements. Thus there was no praise for Cuba as the adjunct of revolution in Africa; no definition of détente as a "specific form of the class struggle," and scant reference to the turbulent state of Latin America.

The point is that the Russians have become aware of the possible contradictions between their interests as a superpower and their interests as a self-proclaimed revolutionary power. As one knowledgeable Russian put it: "The one has to be balanced against the other." This does not mean, the same Russian added, that Moscow is ready to agree on a general code of international behavior. That, one is told, is unrealistic. But it does allow that there are "limits" (the same Russian's word) in the Soviet-American struggle for world influence, limits which can only be worked out as the need arises.

What this adds up to is a Soviet readiness at least to address the main American charge against Moscow: that the Soviet Union is trying to get the best of both worlds in détente by tying America down militarily while extending its own influence throughout the world by aiding revolution with Soviet arms and advisers and Cuban troops.

Mrs. Thatcher calls for U.S. caution in Gulf

By Patrick Seale

LONDON — Premier Margaret Thatcher and her Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington appear to have made a considerable dent in America's Middle East policy in their talk in Washington last month. They are understood to have challenged American positions on two points:

First, they argued that the security of the Gulf could not be separated from a solution to the Palestinian problem. This contrasted with the Reagan administration's view that the Arab-Israeli conflict was essentially a side issue which could be "cooled" while regional defense against the Soviet Union were built up.

Second, the British visitors sought to dissuade the United States from its apparent strategy of seeking to put bases and troops into the Middle East, arguing that these would simply serve to destabilize it. In their view, the existing over-the-horizon naval presence, backed up by early warning AWAC aircraft and America's Rapid Deployment Force, provide sufficient protection.

The British trump card in Washington was that these arguments had the support not only of the European Community, but more significantly, of the people most directly concerned, the Gulf Arabs.

Without fanfare but as a result of intensive diplomacy, Britain has, over the last year, regained much of the political influence in the Gulf which it lost by its withdrawal 10 years ago. Some observers consider this achievement as second only in importance to the Zimbabwe settlement and certain to boost Britain's prestige and the weight of its counsels in Washington.

From London's point of view, the wooing of the Gulf states has been largely motivated by commercial considerations. But the crucial element in the success of the wooing was that the Arab partners were no less keen to re-establish intimacy. Their motive mixes fear of the effects of an assertive American strategy with the belief that Britain can restrain America's wilder impulses.

The news, from Egyptian sources, that Secretary of State Alexander Haig is to visit Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Jordan in early April may be seen as evidence of the high priority attached to the Middle East and the need Washington feels to rethink policies which have aroused hostility and apprehension.

For more than any other European country, Britain is a natural ally for the Gulf states. After more than a century of primacy in the area, Britain withdrew voluntarily in 1971. Now it is back but on strictly non-colonial terms. It is not too much to say that Mrs. Thatcher's government believes the 1971 pullout to have been a mistake.

The busy two-way traffic of political leaders over the past months, due to culminate in Mrs. Thatcher's own visit to the Gulf in April, has brought about what might be termed a "mentor" relationship.

British and Arab arguments are evidently being taken to heart in Washington. Western diplomats report that, after early American hostility to the European initiative, (which essentially involves Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, Palestinian self-determination, and a role for the PLO), the seven-week old administration is at least now prepared to keep an open mind on it.

This is bound to encourage Lord Carrington to press on with the initiative when Britain takes over the presidency of the EEC next July. — (ONS)

Giscard under pressure to act on death penalty

By Paul Webster

PARIS — Seven men are awaiting the guillotine in French prisons knowing their lives depend on political maneuvering during the presidential election campaign. President Giscard, who has announced his candidature for the poll on April 26, is under pressure to hasten judicial procedures and confirm executions to underline a law and order campaign.

With two-thirds of French people in favor of capital punishment (according to opinion polls), anti-abolitionists feel the president should respond to the popular wave of feeling in which seven men have been condemned to death by randomly selected juries — who decide sentences as well as verdicts — in four months.

Between 1976 and 1977, the president refused to pardon three men during a national outcry over kidnappings and child murders. Anti-abolitionists, who are strongly supported by the Justice Minister, Alain Peyrefitte, believe they have an even stronger case now. On the same day as a Paris suburban jury last month sentenced a man to death for one of the most horrifying series of rapes and killings since the war, a woman abolitionist lawyer was accused by police of giving a gun to a death cell prisoner who wounded a warder trying to shoot his way out of prison.

The state prosecutor had told the trial jury that the multiple murderer, who shot a father in front of his children before killing the mother, was "not worthy of being called human" and that his crimes, including another murder and a series of rapes and attacks, "exploded all theories about capital punishment." By coincidence, the same suburb, Creteil, was the center of the investigation into the attempted escape by Philippe Maurice, 25, who was awaiting the guillotine for shooting a policeman and a night-watchman.

Peyrefitte, who has a strong influence on the president, has blocked any attempt by parliament to debate capital punishment, which has not been reviewed since 1911. Now as a result of a child murder, he is breaking his own curb on public discussion.

Police associations, whose members stood and applauded when Maurice was sentenced to death, have also threatened to take the law into their own hands after an unprecedented series of police murders. An organization called Honor for the Police has already claimed two revenge killings.

The 1976-77 series of death sentences — France is the only country in Europe to maintain capital punishment — showed that the president has the power to hurry judicial procedures. He intervened then to say there would be no mercy for killers of children or old people. A similar act at this time would reassure a large part of the electorate, which supports a series of repressive government measures that have helped to double the prison population to about 60,000 in President Giscard's seven years in office.

Saudi Arabian Press Review

Newspapers mostly led with the conferences of foreign and information ministers of the Arab Gulf states which began in Oman's capital Muscat Monday. Okaz led with report in which it predicted a destructive war on the borders of Iraq and Iran in the near future, while Al Medina reported in a lead story that a high-powered Palestinian delegation would soon visit Tehran and Baghdad to pursue efforts of the Islamic goodwill committee in settling the dispute between Iraq and Iran.

In a front-page story, newspapers reported that the commission for the receipt of donations for Afghan revolutionaries met under the chairmanship of Riyadh Governor Prince Salman and decided to transfer SR50 million to Afghan revolutionaries through the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Al Jazirah gave page one coverage to a story on the hijacked Pakistan airliner which left Kabul airport late Sunday for an undetermined destination. Al Medina reported on its front page that King Khalid will open Jeddah's new general hospital next month, and Medina Governor Prince Abdul Mohsin will open the desalination plant in Yanbu late this month.

Newspapers generally devoted their editorials to commenting on the Gulf affairs, saying that the Gulf region is at the threshold of a great re-urgence in all spheres. They said the drafting of the statute for the Gulf Cooperation Council is a landmark event among the Arab states of the Gulf. They

hoped the conference of Gulf Arab information ministers would be successful in its historic mission.

Al Jazirah said in an editorial that resolutions of the Gulf Arab foreign ministers now meeting in Muscat would be of great significance to the future of Gulf cooperation. It added that the foreign ministers and other experts have exerted honest efforts in the creation of the cooperation council which, it said, would not have an isolationist tendency but would symbolize the hopes and aspirations of the Arab world. In order to realize this aim, there has to be a close identity of views among the Arab states so they can have complete unity and solidarity and can emerge as a world force of considerable importance working for the progress and prosperity of the world as a whole.

Dealing with the ministerial meetings being held in Muscat, Al Riyadh asserted that the feeling of unity was deep-seated in the heart of every Arab citizen. It said that social and international circumstances necessitate the reinforcement of unity, since divergent views and opinions do not help in producing solid and urgent resolutions. Highlighting the joint ventures among the Arab states of the Gulf, the paper said the governments of the region have ensured a system of free economy and that the leaders of the Gulf states know for sure that economic integration would not come in the way of the faith and customs and traditions of the region. The paper reiterated that coordination and cooperation are matters of extreme necessity for the Arab states of the Gulf.

On the same subject, Al Bilad noted that the great awakening in the Gulf, which has been capped by the formation of a Gulf Cooperation Council, provide positive indications that the region is going to play a significant role at the world level. Its role would not only be confined to help the world with its natural and economic resources but would further extend to enrich the world with its culture, heritage and knowledge. The paper referred to the Gulf Arab information ministers' meeting in Muscat and hoped that it would provide a strong spur in giving prominence to the fruitful role of the Gulf Arab states in the sphere of information.

Okaz described the Muscat meetings as an extension to the march on the road to welfare and progress begun by the Arab foreign ministers of the Gulf in Riyadh, which had culminated in the creation of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The paper said that the council is in harmony with the needs of the Gulf region which has to remain strongly united to be able to confront all challenges and ambitious designs of the enemies.

Al Nadwa observed that the positive steps being taken through the meetings of the Gulf Arab Ministers provide a clear indication that the region has embarked on a new stage in the history of its march toward unity and progress. The paper called upon the major powers to understand that the peoples of the Gulf region are an integral part of the Arab world with similar hopes and aspirations and are keen to keep aloof from superpower conflicts.



Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Guides and Brownies renew pledge

'Thinking Day' celebrated in town

By Kathy Lund

JEDDAH — The power of combined thought was seen when Brownies and Guides celebrated their annual "Thinking Day" recently here. Its aim: to think of their fellow Guides throughout the world as a gesture toward international understanding.

"Thinking Day" is a way of commemorating the birthdays of the founders of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide, the late Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. By coincidence both celebrated their birthdays on Feb. 22. "Thinking Day" is thus celebrated by Guides throughout the world on the most suitable day nearest to that date. Boy Scouts similarly hold what they refer to as "Founder's Day".

The 700 or so Guides and Brownies in Jeddah had a special and honored guest — the Lady Patience Baden-Powell, wife of the founders' grandson. Lady Baden-Powell, Chief Commissioner of the British Girl

Guides Association, flew in here by courtesy of Saudia specially for the event.

Commissioner for British Guides in Saudi Arabia, Mrs. Joan Springings, said they were honored with Lady Baden-Powell's presence. "We had been planning for the day since last September," she said.

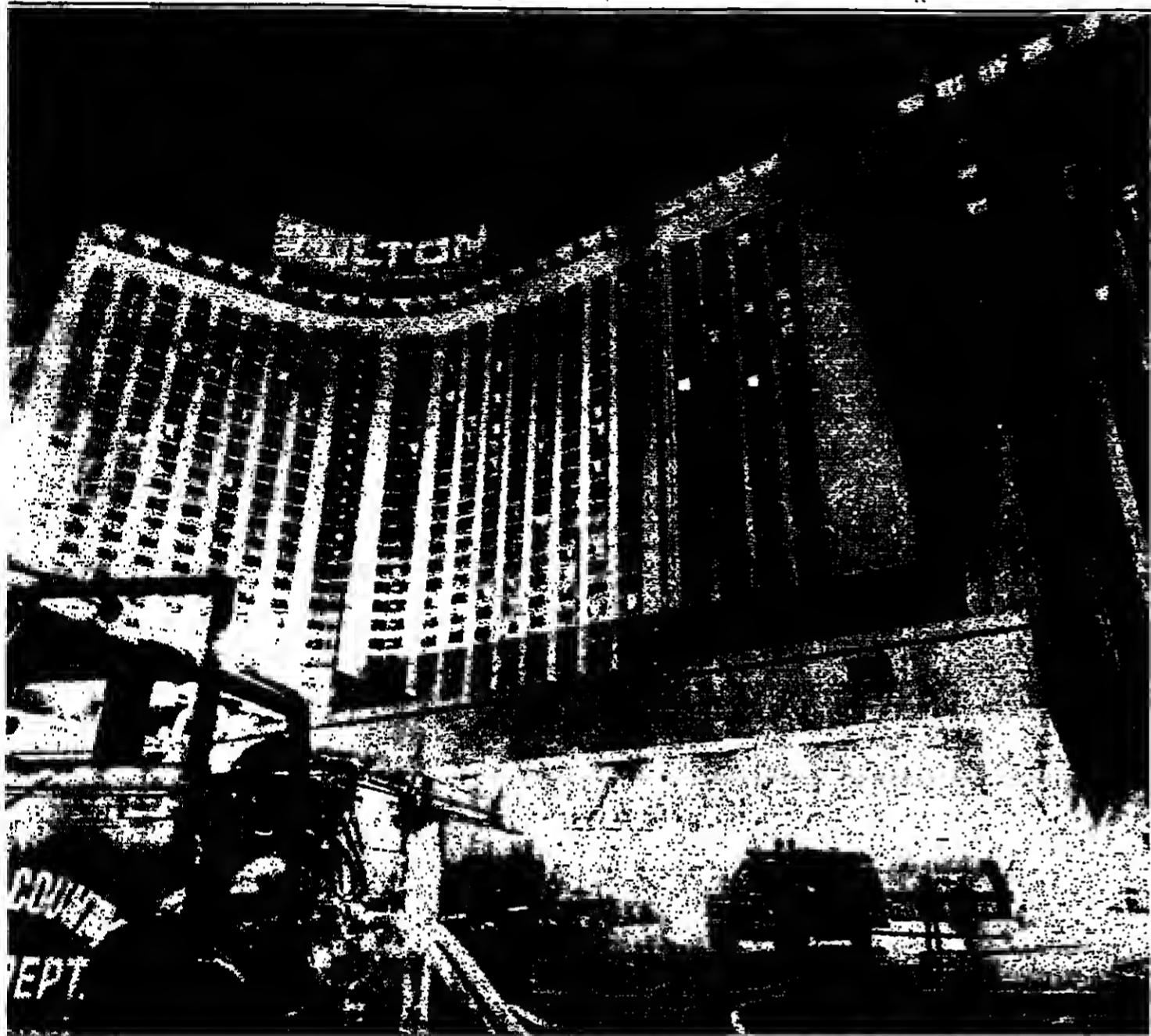
Mrs. Springings said six nations were represented at "Thinking Day." — Saudi Arabia, the United States, Britain, Canada, Greece and Indonesia. The program included a parade of national flags, singing of national anthems, parading of the world flag of the Girl Guide movement and a parade of the flag of each unit taking part. Over 50 flags were on display on that day.

The Guides and Brownies renewed their promise to the Guiding movement, gave an entertainment, sang in ternational songs, ending the soiree "Tape" which is common to the movement throughout the world. "It is based on the guiding and scouting traditions which

in turn are based on the experience of Lord Baden-Powell in the early days in South Africa."

The Scouts movement is 73 years old and the Guide movement only two years. Mrs. Springings said it was the biggest youth organization in the world and "stronger than ever." Britain alone boasts almost one million Guides and Brownies. "The movement is set up on a patrol system and aims to teach its members tolerance toward each other and now to work together," she said. "It is designed to develop character to make young people better citizens."

Other guests at "Thinking Day" included the Guide Commissioner from Egypt; a former member of the World Council for the Girl Guide movement; the wives of ambassadors for the countries involved; a local Jeddah resident, Mrs. Maree Cullen, and a past chairman of the U.S. Girl Scout Neighborhood in Jeddah.



FIRE: A fire raged through the 30-storey Hilton Hotel, in Las Vegas, killing eight persons and injuring 300 others recently. Photo shows fire brigade personnel fighting the fire. This was the second fire to hit the gambling capital of the United States. Last November, 84 persons were killed in a fire at the MGM Grand.

Fires fail to dampen tourists' spirit

Las Vegas hoteliers optimistic

By Charles P. Wallace

LAS VEGAS, (LAT) — The recent fires in Las Vegas appear to have done little to tarnish the city's appeal as a garden of earthly delights, but hotel managements and tour operators agreed that fire-safety questions have become more important to visitors than the lure of slot machines and showgirls. An informal survey of major Las Vegas hotels showed few cancellations after the fires at the MGM Grand Hotel last November and last month's blaze at the Hilton Hotel. But many tourists hedged their bets and demanded hotel rooms close to the street.

Although short-term prospects appeared good, particularly for the forthcoming holiday weekends, fears about the future of the

to Las Vegas, but that will really be minimal," Cannon said. Debbie Allen, the Los Angeles area manager of the Carver Travel Agency, which specializes in tours in Las Vegas, reported only a minor dropoff in reservations, but said her customers "are more opinionated about fire safety and are asking a lot more questions." She said that many callers were asking to be placed in small hotels, or on the lower floors of the bigger hotels. "We may be promoting smaller, different properties for awhile," she said. "We had people going out today and every one of them showed up." Tess Poston, customer service manager of Gray Line Tours in Los Angeles, said, "No one has canceled." Las Vegas derives a large share of its revenue from conventions and meetings. A spokesman for the

ing a meeting for 15,000 people in the ski industry next month, said he had no expressions of worry from participants. "Our people travel a lot and know these things happen," he said. "I guess people don't think it's going to happen to them."

"I think conventions will be leery of the individual properties," Robert Vanoucci, manager of the Aladdin Hotel, said. "After the MGM fire we got a lot of requests for lower floors, when in the past most people wanted the tower rooms. The main concern is how you're equipped to handle a fire. But I think most people view these as unfortunate incidents." Theodore Anderson, vice president of the Argus Research Corp., a Wall Street firm, agreed about the long-term impact. "I think people are going to be a little

"At the Union Plaza, a 22-storey hotel in downtown Las Vegas, Robert Cannon, the manager, said that he doubted there would be any sudden loss of business. "I don't think this is going to hurt. There will be a few people who change their minds about coming to Las Vegas, but that will really be minimal."

city deepened measurably after the Hilton fire. "When you have two fires of this magnitude it has to have an effect," said Kean Juin, vice-president of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. "I know this question is uppermost in the minds of people in this community."

Anthony Hoffman, an analyst with the Chicago-based investment house of A.G. Becker and Co., said that concern about the fires could be enough to "take the edge off" the city's recovery from last year's sluggishness. "If somebody's planning to go to Caesar's Palace next week, I imagine he'd be a little worried that somebody is burning down the town," Hoffman said. "There will be a lot of people who say I don't want to go to Vegas right now."

At the Union Plaza, a 22-storey hotel in downtown Las Vegas, Robert Cannon, the manager, said that he doubted there would be any sudden loss of business. "I don't think this is going to hurt. There will be a few people who change their minds about coming

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors' Bureau said that none of the planned conventions had been canceled or moved.

"Basically, we have seen very little fallout from the fires," said Jim Jalety, president of Las Vegas Convention Planners. "Safety is a major concern. Every person we do talk to now brings up the standards and the safety codes, not the entertainer playing in the showrooms." Clarence Siegfried, director of the American Rental Association, which is holding a convention for 5,000 people in Las Vegas said that he had received calls of concern from a number of guests at the meeting, primarily about the location of rooms. Siegfried said his association was printing fire-safety instructions to be handed out for the first time. "I'll have to evaluate a lot of things when this is over to see if we come back to Las Vegas again," he said.

Despite such concerns, a number of convention operators said that Las Vegas was one of the only cities in the country that could provide facilities and efficient service to large conventions. Robert Ingemie, who is organiz-

nervous about any hotel — particularly a Casino Hotel. But I don't expect it to be very long-lasting."

Fred Lewis, a vice president of the Summa Corp., which owns or operates four Las Vegas hotels, said that the fact that the city and the Hilton were filled to capacity at the time of the fire demonstrated that the MGM blaze had had little impact on the city. Lewis said that because the Hilton fire appeared to have been caused by arson, it showed that "there is some poor, sick soul out there, but at least the fire was not the result of carelessness."

At the Elegant Escort Agency in Las Vegas, Sylvia, a woman who said "we never use our last names in this business," noted that business had fallen off sharply immediately after the Hilton fire. "After the MGM fire, business really increased — I guess people were so happy they weren't killed," Sylvia said. "Judging by today, things are really slowing down, though. I expect our patrons to move to smaller hotels."



MINICAR: The rising prices of gasoline in the United States have forced the people to go in for minicars. This car, which has the speed of 104 kms, can cover 160 kms with only five liters of gas.

Minicar craze catching up in America

By Patrick Boyle

LOS ANGELES (LAT) — Is America ready to be shoehorned into a two-passenger commuter car? Diane Nenne is. The 18-year-old college student already drives a Honda Civic, one of the smallest cars available in the U.S. market. And after viewing a group of even smaller cars recently as part of a marketing study, she said she would be willing to move to what some see as the next generation of minicars. "I personally like small cars," she said. "I don't like sitting in something that looks like a boat."

Market researchers say Miss Nenne is part of a still "mini"-minority of car buyers whose needs and tastes run to two-passenger cars with very little room for kids, luggage and the dog. Most Americans, even those buying small Japanese and American cars, have traditionally needed more space than is available in a tiny two-passenger commuter car. However, rising gasoline prices might be changing that habit, creating a new niche in the U.S. car market that could widen into a major segment. And because the world's smallest cars are now built by the Japanese and European auto makers, analysts worry that should an American market develop more quickly than expected for such cars the U.S. auto industry could fall even further behind its foreign competitors.

The smallest American-made cars — of Chevrolet, Chevrolet, Ford Escort, and Chrysler Corp.'s Omni-Horizon — are all

about a foot longer than the Volkswagen Rabbit, two feet longer than the Honda Civic and three feet longer than some of the smallest cars made in Japan. General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. both will reportedly introduce their own new minicars in 1984, but the vehicles will be about the same size as models currently sold in the United States by Toyota and Honda — and will be larger than the two-passenger commuter cars these and other Japanese companies already build and sell in Japan.

American auto executives have traditionally scoffed at suggestions that a large U.S. market might develop for cars with room for only two passengers and with engines so small they have barely enough horsepower to get the car up to freeway speed. However, recent evidence indicates that some car buyers are indeed interested primarily in fuel-stingy transportation — commuter cars built elsewhere routinely deliver well over 40 miles per gallon in city traffic — and care little for the creature comforts Detroit has grown fat selling for so long. Despite the continuing slump in auto sales generally, the smallest cars available here — the Honda Civic and Toyota Tercel — have continued to sell well.

The combined sales of those two models will probably be less than 200,000 vehicles in 1981, or less than 3 per cent of the car market, however. And Detroit executives are reluctant to spend the \$3 billion it would take to bring out an entirely new minicar without

being certain that they can sell at least 500,000 of the cars a year and recoup that investment. "The sales potential for minicars is there, but no one knows how great it is," said one Ford marketing official. "It would cost \$3 billion to find out and we don't have the money to gamble. We just can't throw that kind of money into a gap in the market that hasn't been tested."

Cars much smaller than the current crop of subcompacts, which are from 155 to 165 inches in length, never did well in the U.S. market until gasoline prices began rising rapidly after the Arab oil embargo of 1973-74. The lone success story of the small cars of the 1950s and 1960s was the Volkswagen Beetle. Even its popularity began to wane in the years just before the embargo. Other models, such as the Subaru 360 and the Honda 600, were criticized as being too small to drive safely among the huge trucks and big cars operating on U.S. Highways. They were also considered unattractive and did badly in competition with the better-styled, larger imports coming from Europe and from other Japanese manufacturers.

These first minicars were later replaced by slightly larger cars more suited to the tastes of American car buyers, leading to the success of the importers and eventually to a serious decline in the market share of the U.S. auto manufacturers. Smaller cars sold well in Japan and Europe because motorists there generally paid twice as much for gasoline as American car owners.

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To down interest rates

U.S. proposes cuts in credit programs

WASHINGTON, March 9 (R) — The Reagan administration has proposed sharp cuts in government credit programs for farmers, students, exporters and prospective home-buyers in a move designed to bring down interest rates.

The proposal, which will be included in the budget package President Reagan will unveil on Tuesday, calls for a reduction of \$13.6 billion in government direct loan obligations and loan guarantees this year and another \$21 billion in 1982.

Budget Director David Stockman told reporters the size of government loan programs had quadrupled over the past 12 years and now accounted for roughly one-third of all U.S. credit market activity. This "explosive growth," he said, had produced record interest rates.

Stockman said the Reagan administration was committed to reducing the government's share in the credit markets and returning it to private lenders.

Treasury Under-Secretary Beryl Sprinkel, who briefed reporters with Stockman, said: "I consider this move the first of many that will contribute to lower interest rates and ultimately lower inflation."

The programs that would be hit hardest under the proposal include student loans, Export-Import Bank financing, food for peace aid, agricultural price support and various low-interest government mortgages.

The list of cuts contained few surprises as Reagan mentioned most of them in his first

address to the nation on Feb. 18. Stockman said the only area in which government credit would be expanded was economic support funds, designed to help nations with severe balance of payments problems, which would be increased by \$900 million in 1982. He named Turkey and Latin America as places which would probably benefit.

Meanwhile, a former top-ranking government economist, however, said Sunday that Reagan's program of sweeping tax and spending cuts will fail in its expressed aim of reducing inflation while spurring economic growth.

Walter Heller, the chief economist under presidents Kennedy and Johnson, said in a television interview that the Reagan administration was "kidding itself" about what could be accomplished by its plan.

The new administration has predicted that its program will stimulate economic growth of 4.5 per cent a year by 1984, while simultaneously halving the nation's 12 per cent inflation rate.

"What disturbs me is that [Reagan] is promising us that we can have both a big expansion in the economy and a big contraction in inflation," Heller said. "The two things are simply inconsistent," he added.

Heller said the Reagan plan was a "very risky path to take". It could fuel a damaging surge in inflation, he said, especially if Congress passed proposed tax cuts before implementing complementary reductions in public spending.

Credit cards gain popularity

MONACO, March 9 (AFP) — Credit card usage will greatly expand in the world in the next two years, as computerized financial transactions multiply and banks find checks and money increasingly burdensome to handle, bankers at a major convention here said.

At the same time, advanced technology is also bringing cards with built-in mini-

computers as well as automated street corner devices offering a wide range of banking services. Even gasoline pumps will begin working with the insertion of these pervasive rectangles of plastic.

The new developments raise fears that bankers may lose personal contact in their daily business, and in the process, some of their customers.

These were the conclusions of the third convention of the European Financial Marketing Association (EFMA) meeting held here last week. About 650 bankers from 25 countries attended.

The American-based computer multinational IBM presented its latest equipment. One automatic device, to be installed outdoors, not only distributes bills but also accepts check or cash deposits, transfers money from one account to another, and indicates the current amount in the account.

The bankers also raised the problem of integrating the systems. One cannot expect merchants to install three different terminals in their stores, just to accommodate three major credit cards, the bankers said.

"The basic problem for bankers is to make all the networks compatible," EFMA delegate Dominique Tulasac said.



REMOVING FLOATING DEBRIS: A special skimmer for the removal of floating pollution, including oil from sheltered waters has been developed by a Finnish firm. The important feature of the skimmer is its simplicity — simple in design, simple to operate, simple and light to tow or transport. In the picture is a pontoon-skimmer in operation.

In Britain

Deflationary steps predicted

LONDON, March 9 (R) — Leading newspapers have predicted the British government would resist criticism of its monetarist policies and impose harsher deflationary measures in its annual budget this week to get the economy back on course.

Business, labor and political pressure groups, including some supporters of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, have been calling for a measure of reflation to lift Britain out of its worst slump since the 1930s.

The only bright spot in what *The Sunday Times* said would be an unexpectedly savage dose of deflation was the forecast that minimum lending rate, which governs all British interest rates, would be cut by between two and three per cent to 11 or 12 per cent to help industry.

No official comment was available on the reliability of the newspapers' predictions, but both published accurate advance accounts of a government "mini-budget" last November, which led to opposition Labor Party charges of top-level leaks.

The government's annual budget traditionally the best-kept secret in British politics.

The administration's economic strategy is widely regarded as being in disarray, thrown off course by soaring unemployment and

ILO urges doubling road network

GENEVA, March 9 (AFP) — A "realistic and balanced" transport policy for the third world must include road investment corresponding to social as well as economic needs, the use of labor-intensive road-building methods and more suitable vehicles than those of Europe, according to a study released here.

The study by the International Labor Office, which is the secretariat of the International Labor Organization (ILO), a U.N.-associated body, said that the road network density in most less-developed countries was on an average 10 times less than that in the industrialized world.

It said that a reasonable objective would be a doubling of the present road network in third world countries in the next 15 years using conventional materials.

But to achieve that, the less-developed countries would need to increase their cash revenue by three to five per cent per year, and the external deficit of these countries is increasing by 20 per cent a year, the study noted.

It also pointed out that any such new roads would have to be maintained, while at the present time third world countries are for the most part not in a position to maintain their existing road network.

More than four out of five of the population of the countries concerned live in the rural areas. They have to be assured access to the various social and public services, transport of their produce and a link with the outside world.

stagnant industrial production. Business and labor leaders have called on the government to expand the economy.

Last week, the employers' organization, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), in a statement echoing trade unions' demands, urged the government to pump £26 billion (\$13 billion) into the economy to avoid unemployment rising by a further million in the next four years. It now stands at 2.5 million, almost 10 per cent of the work force.

Opinion polls show that unemployment now worries British voters much more than inflation, which has fallen from 22 to 13 per cent in less than a year.

But Mrs. Thatcher said only last Wednesday that the battle against rising prices remained her main economic priority.

Other members of her cabinet have said repeatedly in recent days that the administration's economic strategy is correct and will be adhered to.

"The budget will stress that the government's monetarist commitment is unbending and that the prime aim is to bring the soaring public sector borrowing requirement under control," *The Sunday Times* said Sunday.

State borrowing in the current fiscal year is estimated at £13.5 billion (\$80 billion), 60 per cent higher than last year's budget forecast. The newspapers predicted the chancellor would set his target for 1981-82 at about £11 billion (\$24 billion dollars).

They also forecast higher taxes on tobacco, alcohol, petrol and vehicles while personal tax allowances would increase by only a third of the rate of inflation — in effect a tax rise.

Mrs. Thatcher won power in 1979 on a platform, including tax cuts to increase work incentives.

FAO channels relief

Famine stalks African states

ROME, March 9 (AP) — The food shortage in Africa has deteriorated in the past six months and 28 countries are suffering from famine — two more than were stricken last fall, the Food and Agriculture Organization said Monday.

Refugees with match-stick legs and swollen stomachs are crowded into camps. In Somalia, there are 1.5 million refugees from drought and war, in Ethiopia, one million refugees are in dire need of food and in Uganda 500,000 are suffering from hunger, FAO said.

"No longer able to care for themselves, these homeless wanderers must depend on others for help, straining the already meagre resources of the region, parts of which are completely arid," a FAO press release said.

FAO Director-General Edouard Satuma has added Madagascar and Upper Volta to a list of 26 countries suffering from severe shortages in September.

The other countries are: Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Harvests in many of these countries have failed and there has been drought for two years. FAO said it is important to deliver food and other supplies before May, when the rainy season begins.

During the rainy season, it is difficult to get supplies in because of primitive roads and railroads. But if there is no rain, the situation will be even worse.

FAO said the 28 countries need to import 6.5 million metric tons for the 1980/81 harvest period, 43 per cent more than in 1979/80. The harvest period is different for each country, starting in early summer in some countries and late summer in others. Many of the countries cannot afford to step up commercial imports, the release said.

FAO, an organization of the United Nations, is organizing and channeling aid on an emergency and short-term basis and is providing technical assistance to increase food production.

In September, Satuma made a plea for more emergency international aid of the hungry in Africa. As of early February, 1.8 million tons of emergency food had been pledged for the stricken countries. But this is 2.7 million tons short of what the FAO estimates is needed in emergency supplies.

"Less food is being produced in Africa now than was grown in 1970," the FAO said. Per capita production in the 28 countries had fallen alarmingly over the past decade.

The FAO estimated cereal production in the 28 nations in 1980 at 20.8 million tons, 12 per cent down on 1978.

It was stepping up emergency aid to east Africa, and in particular to Somalia, Ethiopia, Uganda and Mozambique, where it

said drought and civil strife had worsened conditions.

Meanwhile, the government of drought-stricken Somalia Sunday launched an international appeal for some 470,000 metric tons of food to meet expected shortfalls for 1981 and warned it may need even more.

Omar Giama, deputy minister of national planning, told diplomats and foreign aid officials: "Already the stocks of certain essential food commodities have a reserve numbered in days."

"This critical condition for our people could be greatly exacerbated if the drought deepens further or if there is a further increase in the flow of refugees from the Ogaden desert."

Giama said that the government is unable to meet food requirements because of a 25-30 per cent drop in government revenues.

Somalia's economic troubles have been worsened by the exhaustion of its foreign exchange holdings and fuel shortages caused by the Iran-Iraq war.

Giama said Somalia's woes are part of a crisis sweeping northeast Africa, where drought is causing widespread hardship and warnings by Western agronomists of a looming major disaster. The economic strain on Somalia caused by the drought has been deepened by a steady flow of refugees from the arid Ogaden, where Somali-backed guerrillas are fighting to end Ethiopian rule.

China runs up \$7.5b deficit

PEKING, March 9 (R) — China ran a budget deficit last year of 12.1 billion yuan (\$7.5 billion), forcing its state-owned banks to print more money to help finance the shortfall, an official report published here said.

The report by top economic planner Yao Yilin, published in full in *The People's Daily*, said the deficit was (\$2.6 billion) more than the target of \$5 billion.

Yao said the shortfall had meant the government had, in effect, increased its overdraft at the bank, compelling it to issue an extra 7.6 billion yuan (\$4.7 billion) in new notes instead of a budgeted three billion (\$1.9 billion) during 1980.

However, the deficit was a 29 per cent drop compared with the 1979 figure of 17 billion yuan (\$10.6 billion).

"Because the amount of currency in circulation went up, the supply of products was not able to keep up and retail prices rose an average of roughly six per cent on the previous year," the report said.

Prices of non-staple foodstuffs, meaning foods other than items such as grain and oils, had risen 13.8 per cent last year.

Yao said the large deficit was mainly due to over-expenditure on capital construction projects, many of which are being axed as part of his retrenchment program.

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مركز المدينة

کتابخانه

Weinberger says

J.S. must bolster forces in Mideast

WASHINGTON, March 9 (R) — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said the United States should increase its military presence in the Gulf region and possibly supply arms to anti-Soviet Afghan rebels.

ers, he said but added: "Anything that discourages the Soviets from further adventurism would be a useful thing too." He said such a policy of direct U.S. aid "could only succeed if it were acceptable to the Afghan rebels."

Scotland Yard alert

Libyan assassin teams active

LONDON, March 9 (AP) — Scotland Yard believes that two or three Libyan assassin teams are now in London seeking to eliminate prominent Libyan opponents of Col. Muammar Qaddafi.

Libya's intelligence organization, has been spotted in London over the last two weeks. The sources said Yard chiefs fear Qaddafi who is reported to be continuing a crackdown on dissidents inside Libya, may plan to resume his regime's campaign against critics abroad on or around April 7.

However, The Sunday Telegraph reported that Abdul Atiyy Al Ohaidi, a key figure in Qaddafi's regime and closely linked with

the land was theirs. Military sources said it was state land and would be used to set up an industrial zone for the Ariel settlement.

Land seizure by Israel challenged

TEL AVIV, March 9 (R) — Sixty-two Arab villagers from the occupied West Bank appealed to the Israeli supreme court Monday against the seizure of land on which Israel intends to expand a Jewish settlement, their lawyer said.

The appeal stated that the land was arbitrarily seized for political reasons and called on the military governor and the minister of defense to show cause why it should not be returned to the owners.

Israel claims

Commando wanted to bomb refinery

TEL AVIV, March 9 (AP) — Israel's military Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Raphael Eitan, has claimed that a Palestinian commando who flew a Hang glider from Lebanon meant to bomb Haifa's oil refineries. The commando was captured early Saturday morning.

aluminum Hang glider. "But I don't think we have to panic about it." Eitan claimed the commando had been trained in Syria, and took off north of Lebanon. The Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF) in Beirut took responsibility for the attack.

Bank of Palestine to reopen in Gaza

TEL AVIV, March 9 (AP) — The Bank of Palestine in the occupied Gaza Strip, whose name the military government regarded as a security threat, will reopen soon under its original name, Israeli Radio has reported.

military government for it to reopen. The court ordered the military government two weeks ago to justify why the bank should not be allowed to reopen with its old name.

Abu-Hatzeira denies bribery charge

TEL AVIV, March 9 (AP) — Religious Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira denied innocence in court of bribery charges said he was a victim of a racially slanted trial vendetta.

smeared campaign in revenge for firing him. He said Lippel had accused him of stacking the ministry with Sephardim, Jews coming mostly from AGP countries, at the expense of the long-established Jews of European origins.

Sudanese judges resume work

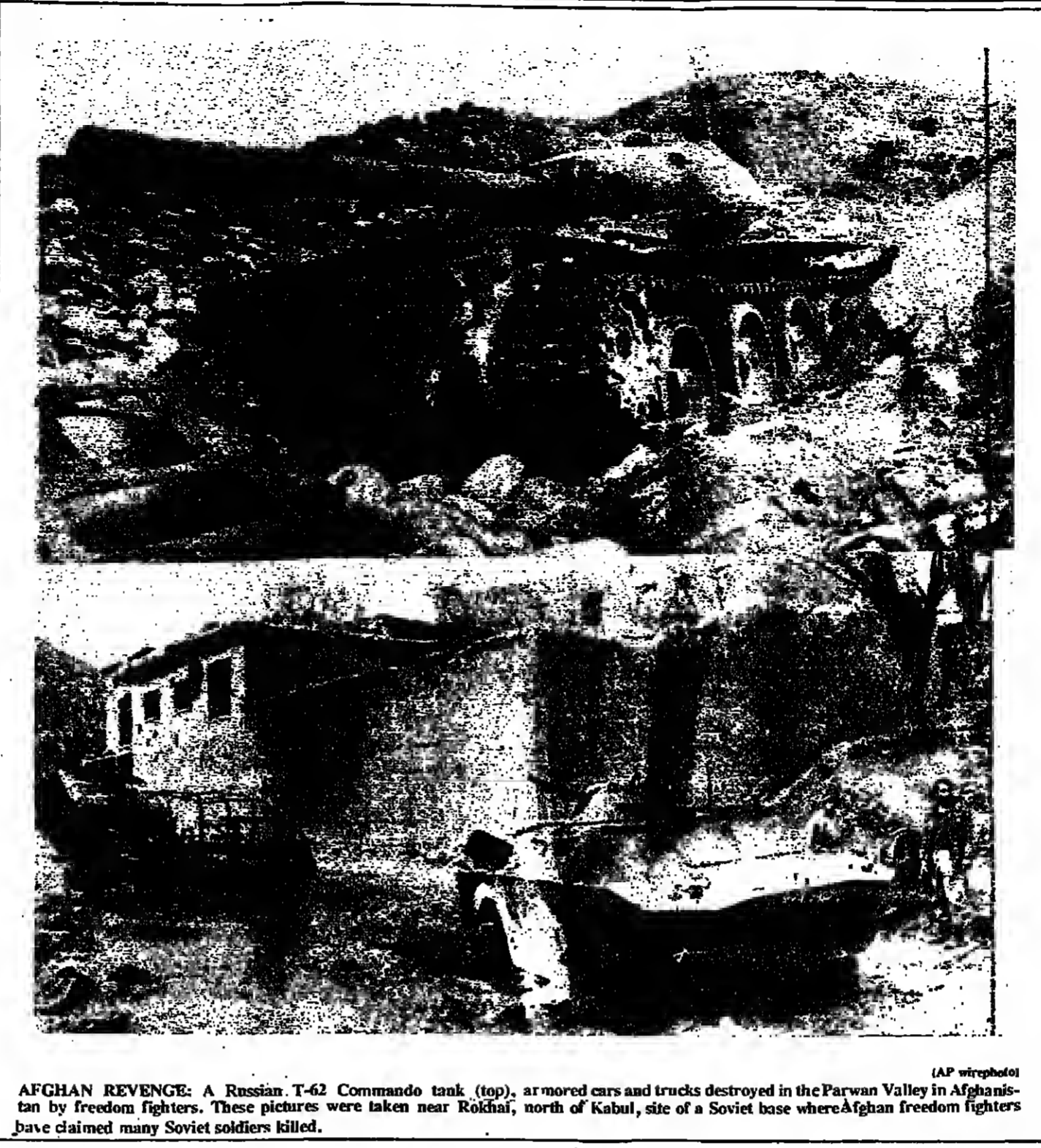
KHARTOUM, March 9 (AFP) — Judges in Sudan have returned to work after a 10-day strike in protest against unsatisfactory conditions of service, the Sudanese News Agency reported.

Suna said that the decree was sent to regional governors, president of courts of appeal and provincial commissioners to notify judges of their reappointment.

George Washington called terrorist, Arafat says

BRIN, March 9 (AP) — Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was quoted as saying George Washington, Charles de Gaulle and Italian President Pertini were considered terrorists by enemies.

movements as terrorist. In the interview with the paper's Beirut correspondent, Arafat was quoted as repeating a denial that the PLO has ties to the Red Brigades, Italy's ultra-left-wing urban guerrilla group.



AFGHAN REVENGE: A Russian T-62 Commando tank (top), armored cars and trucks destroyed in the Parwan Valley in Afghanistan by freedom fighters. These pictures were taken near Roldkhai, north of Kabul, site of a Soviet base where Afghan freedom fighters have claimed many Soviet soldiers killed.

Shamir voices 'sorrow'

EEC support of PLO angers Israel

ROME, March 9 (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday the Common Market encourages the Palestine Liberation Organization, which he termed an "extremist element" in the Middle East.

Community hasn't done this, and, unfortunately, that the European community, through its declarations and attitudes, ends up encouraging the PLO," Shamir said.

Shamir expressed regret at not being able to meet the Pope, but he confirmed that the Pope would be visiting Israel at a date as yet unspecified.

Mrs. Bhutto appeals for support

KARACHI, March 9 (AFP) — The widow of executed Prime Minister Z.A. Bhutto Begum Nusrat Bhutto who was arrested here Sunday has called on the people of Pakistan to join in the struggle to restore "democracy" in the country.

tan People's Party, said "I like so many others, have been arrested, but my voice cannot be silenced, because my voice is the people's voice. I only articulate aspirations of the people of Pakistan."

in September and December 1977 that a senior Israeli officer was an Egyptian agent during the June 1967 war. Tohami was also said to have described President Gamal Nasser, Egypt's leader at the time, as a "madman who has taken Egypt to the brink of collapse."

Gaza market area put under curfew

GAZA, March 9 (AFP) — Israeli security forces slapped a curfew on the market area of Gaza after a bomb wounded six persons early Monday, and started systematic searches of the neighboring areas, correspondents in the region reported.

Charges against Sadat aide

Dayan to be sued for damages

CAIRO, March 9 (AFP) — Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Hassan Tohami will sue former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan over allegations contained in a book he has written, the weekly paper Mayo reported here Monday.

Dayan has rejected Tohami's charges. Every word he wrote was the "strict truth," he told the Tel Aviv newspaper Yedioth Aharonot Monday. He added that Tohami was the first to reveal that the secret talks in interviews with Israeli journalists.

BRIEFS

MANAMA, (AP) — South Yemen introduced color television transmission to its people for the first time Sunday, the Gulf News Agency reported Sunday.

Iraqi missiles fired on Ahwaz

BEIRUT, March 9 (AP) — Iraq sailed surface-to-surface missiles into Iran's oil producing capital Ahwaz in invaded Khuzestan province, destroying several buildings, Iranian news agency reported Monday as fighting intensified in the 25th week of the Gulf war.

Syrian president says

Merger with Libya to be realized

DAMASCUS, March 9 (AP) — President Hafez Assad in a speech marking the 18th anniversary of the Arab Socialist Baath Party in Syria said the merger with Libya "would be realized" and accused Jordan of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood organization.

Israeli ship sinks

BALTIMORE, March 9 (AP) — An Israeli bulk carrier ship with 35 crewmen aboard sank 154 kms southeast of Bermuda Sunday, leaving three crewmen dead and others floundering in mountainous seas and high winds, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Israeli ship sinks

It was the third straight day that Iran accused Iraq of using missiles, believed to be long-range Soviet-made Frog 7s. Fighting escalated last Saturday when Iran rejected a peace plan proposed by Islamic mediators.

Israeli ship sinks

Assad said, adding "in short, the two leaderships are serious in their desire to realize the merger between the people of Syria and the people of Libya."

Israeli ship sinks

Arabat, a senior Sudanese officer in the embassy's commercial section, has been made a member of the Order of the British Empire.

Israeli ship sinks

TEL AVIV, (AFP) — Following an eruption of unprecedented sectarian violence launched by ultra-orthodox Jewish zealots here during the weekend, Israeli newspapers Monday were near unanimous in pinning the blame, directly or indirectly, on Prime Minister Menahem Begin's coalition government.

Israeli ship sinks

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi and Syria's Assad declared they would merge their two nations last September despite political differences and the geographical distance between the two countries. The day the merger is realized will be a "national wedding," Assad said while crowds cheered and

Bani-Sadr runs rival government, Rajai says

TEHRAN, March 9 (R) — Iranian Prime Minister Muhammad Ali Rajai has accused President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr of taking the law into his own hands through the Presidential Guard and effectively setting up a rival government.

In a television commentary Sunday night the prime minister, who heads a government dominated by Islamic Republican Party (IRP), continued a growing battle over disturbances last Thursday at Tehran University.

The prime minister denounced Bani-Sadr's attempts to restore order at the rally. "The interior ministry was not informed about this rally. The president's office informed the Presidential Guard. The police and only afterward the ministry which is responsible for law and order. In this country, we can see that unfortunately another government is operating beside the real one," he said.

Since the rally there have been reports of unrest in several cities, with IRP supporters attempting, with partial success to close down bazaars as a protest.

In the northern town of Lahijan, leftwing radicals of the semi-legal Mujahedin-Khalq occupied the governor's office and made an abortive attempt to declare the town independent of the Tehran government.

Iran bans parades

NICOSIA, March 9 (AP) — Iran's Interior Minister Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani issued has orders temporarily banning all kinds of demonstrations and marches in Iran, the official Iranian News Agency, Pars, reported.

The ban was prompted by riots Thursday during a rally at Tehran University campus which was addressed by President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr.

Four persons were reported killed and scores injured in the clashes that erupted between supporters of moderate Bani-Sadr and other belonging to the hardline factions of the clergy-led Islamic Republican Party. Club-wielding securitymen clashed with rioters, and sporadic shooting continued late into the night in Tehran, according to some reports.

The clashes issue came up in the Iranian Majlis (parliament) Sunday, where speaker Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani criticized Bani-Sadr and called on the higher judicial council to investigate the incident.

Syrian president says

Merger with Libya to be realized

DAMASCUS, March 9 (AP) — President Hafez Assad in a speech marking the 18th anniversary of the Arab Socialist Baath Party in Syria said the merger with Libya "would be realized" and accused Jordan of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood organization.

Assad said, adding "in short, the two leaderships are serious in their desire to realize the merger between the people of Syria and the people of Libya."

For WBC title

Boza-Edwards outpoints Limon

STOCKTON, California March 9 (Agencies) — Challenger Cornelius Boza-Edwards of London, knocked down Rafael "Bazooka" Limon in the fifth round, withstood a game comeback effort by the Mexican fighter and won a unanimous decision Sunday to become the new World Boxing Council super-featherweight champion.

Boza-Edwards, a native of Uganda, ended Limon's three-month reign as champion by dominating the free-swinging, bloody fight which was televised nationally.

Limon was floored by a straight left in the fifth, took more hard punches in the sixth, but made a strong showing in the seventh through 10th rounds. Boza-Edwards was in command again, however, most of the last five rounds and staggered Limon several times.

The two left-handed fighters both weighed 129 pounds (58.5 kgs) for the championship fight in the 130-pound (58.9 kg) division also

known as junior lightweight. Boza-Edwards, 25, went into the bout as the second-ranked WBC contender, behind Bobby Chacon.

Limon, from Mexico City, won the title Dec. 4 by knocking out Ildelfonso Bethelmi in Los Angeles. The two fought for the championship after Alexis Arguello gave up the title to move up to the lightweight division.

"I knew he'd get tired," said Boza-Edwards, "so I left myself punch himself out earlier in the fight. He knew he couldn't put me away and that I could outbox him."

Boza-Edwards' record is now 30 wins and two losses. His manager, Mickey Duff, said: "I got worried a few times when he just stood there and traded punches, but he always came out ahead. He won because he's the better fighter."

Boza-Edwards, who added the second part of his name as a mark of respect for Jack

Edwards, who brought him to England in 1974, had been in hard training since December and was confident he could cope with the tough Mexican.

He did just that here Sunday, picking off the Mexican as he came charging in, winning a magnificent victory in a battle of southpaws. All three judges awarded Boza-Edwards the fight — 146-140, 146-139, 143-141.

In Lagos, Obisla Nwankpa of Nigeria beat the number two contender for the World Boxing Council (WBC) super lightweight title, Juan Jose Gimenez of Argentina, in an official elimination bout here Sunday night.

Nwankpa, previously ranked sixth in line for a chance at American Saoul Mamby's title, beat Gimenez on points over 12 rounds.

He is expected to fight the winner of a scheduled bout between Mamby and top-contender Jo Kimpuani, possibly next July at the Nigerian National stadium here.

In second attempt

Flores whips Gushiken for crown

TOKYO, March 9 (Agencies) — Pedro Flores of Mexico wrestled the World Boxing Association light-flyweight title from the Japanese holder Yoko Gushiken Sunday night, stopping the champion in the 12th round.

As Flores unleashed a hail of punches against the helpless Gushiken, the towel came sailing into the ring from the champion's corner to signal to American referee Stephen Crosson that the Japanese had had enough punishment.

The end came after one minute 45 seconds of the 12th round. Gushiken, 25, had been down earlier in the round, his second visit to the canvas after being felled in the eighth round.

For Gushiken it was the end of a title reign. He won the crown in October 1976 by pipping Juan Guzman of the Dominican Republic.

The champion looked on the way to victory up to midway through the eighth round, beating the 30-year-old Flores to the punch and eluding most of the challenger's blows.

But the fight turned the Mexican's way when he landed a hard right to Gushiken's face in the eighth round and put the champion down later in the round. Flores went in for the kill in the ninth, but the experienced and courageous Gushiken weathered the storm until the 12th round. Then he was caught by a hail of punches which put him down. He got up groggy and was at Flores' mercy until his tangles threw in the towel.

It was Gushiken's first defeat in 24 professional bouts and Flores' 15th victory against six defeats.

The referee and Mexican judge Marco Rodriguez had Flores ahead at the end of the 11th round, 106-103 and 107-104, but Japanese judge Kazumasa Kuwata scored it

for Gushiken, 107-106.

The 30-year-old Flores became the champion of the 108 pounders (48.9 kilograms) in his second shot at the title. He lost a unanimous decision to Gushiken in his first meeting with the Japanese in Kanazawa City, West of Tokyo, last Oct. 12.

But the Oct. 12 match was so closely and hotly fought that the World Boxing Association ordered a rematch. Flores arrived in Japan almost two weeks ago, saying he had engaged in "secret" training and boasting that he would be in better condition than the Japanese fighter.

Flores proved as good as his word, becoming the first man to defeat the 25-year-old champion in 24 professional fights. The victory was Flores' first since he moved down from the flyweight class.

Barcelona goes down to Atletico Madrid

MADRID, March 9 (R) — Barcelona, without the kidnapped star Quini, lost a vital match in their quest for the Spanish League Championship. Atletico Madrid, the leaders, beat them 1-0, increasing the gap to four points with seven matches left to play.

There was no news Sunday about Quini, top-scorer in the league, who vanished a week ago. The club has agreed to pay a ransom but wants to know exactly how, where and when.

Team captain Antonio Olmo said after the match: "This has been the saddest week in my life." But he added: "Once I was on the field, I forgot about Quini. May he forgive me if he is listening."

In Chicago Andre Ostrom tallied twice to key a four-goal strength that carried the Edmonton Drillers to the North American Soccer League Indoor championship series with a 5-4 win over the Chicago Sting.

The Sting held a 2-0 lead at the half on tallies by Karl-Heinz Granitza and Arno Steffenhagen, the latter playing Saturday in his first indoor match.

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But Edmonton closed within 3-1 on a 30-foot drive by Mike Sweeney. Defender Brett Hall answered for the Sting just 45 seconds later, scoring off a long clearing pass, but Edmonton then strung together four consecutive scores.

Meanwhile, unbeaten AZ'67 of Alkmaar stretched their lead in the Dutch Soccer Championship to nine points Sunday, with a win in the Hague where none of their five previous visits had been triumphant.

They were 3-0 up at halftime. Nijgaard, Tol Kist and an unwilling Hague defender were the scorers.

Kadiogo (upper Volta) beat Semassi of Sokode (Togo) 3-2 in a first-leg qualifying match for the African Soccer Cup Winners' Cup. Scorers — Kadiogo: Tassere, Ouedraogo (26 minutes), Kuliga Zomalkewin sap (53). Semassi Zacharie (42), Yenima (72).

In Maseru, Lesotho Matlama of Lesotho and power Dynamos of Zambia drew 1-1 (half-time 1-1). Scorers: Dynamos — Alex Chola (and minute), Matlama — Mahao Matete, penalty (30).



WELL CONNECTED: American Jesse Burnett (left) leads a left to the chin of Australian Tony Muudine on the way to his point decision at Carlaw Park, Auckland recently. Burnett (now) meets Carlos de Leon of Puerto Rico for the World Boxing Council cruiser weight title.

Gene Mayer is champion

Scanlon outlasts Vijay

SALISBURY, Maryland March 9 (AP) — Bill Scanlon won the \$200,000 World Tennis Championship Tennis Invitational in Maryland Sunday by defeating last year's runner up Vijay Amritraj of India 3-6, 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

The \$100,000 first prize was the biggest paycheck in Scanlon's four-year career. The 24-year-old Dallas native entered the round-robin tournament Wednesday after Eliot Teltscher injured himself during an opening round loss Tuesday to Brian Teacher.

Despite absorbing Teltscher's loss, Scanlon won the next four matches, including a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Amritraj on Thursday, to qualify for the final.

After a shaky first set, Scanlon played a more aggressive game in the second set, attacking the net on every opportunity. He broke service three times to take a 5-0 lead.

With a 2-1 lead going into the fourth set, Scanlon's serve began to falter as Amritraj came to the net for several easy points.

Scanlon took a 1-0 advantage in the last set, but blew a 40-0 lead in the second game as Amritraj broke service to tie the set at 1-1.

Both players held service through the next four games before Scanlon recorded a crucial service break in the seventh game.

In Denver defending champion Gene Mayer overpowered an erratic-serving John Sadri with deep backcourt play, taking an unsurprising 6-4, 6-4 victory to win the \$125,000 United Bank Tennis Classic Championship.

In the doubles championship, Andrew Patison and Butch Waltz broke Dick Stockton's serve twice to defeat Stockton and Mel Purcell 6-3, 6-4.

Meanwhile Second-seeded Rod Laver of Australia defeated American Cliff Richey 6-3, 6-2 to win the \$33,000 Carte Blanche Tennis Legends championship.

Laver was the favorite to capture the \$10,000 first prize after top-seeded Ken Rosewall was shocked 6-3, 6-2 in the first round Thursday night by Owen Davidson.

The 42-year-old left-hander utilized a variety of ground strokes to dominate Richey, who won \$6,000 for the second place finish.

In the doubles competition, Roy Emerson and Fred Stolle defeated Rosewall and Laver 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to claim a \$2,000 first prize.



Thomas Sjoberg

Swedish soccer squad coming

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, March 9. — Swedish First Division team, Malmo F.F. will be making the scene in the Kingdom on Monday. The glamour outfit will take on Gadisa in Dammam on Wednesday and play Imhad in Jeddah on Friday.

Malmo, who have the distinction of winning the Swedish League pennant on 12 occasions, boast of a couple of seasoned players including Thomas Sjoberg, who represented Sweden in the World Cup in Argentina.

The team will be flown in by SAS, which had earlier flown in three other teams.

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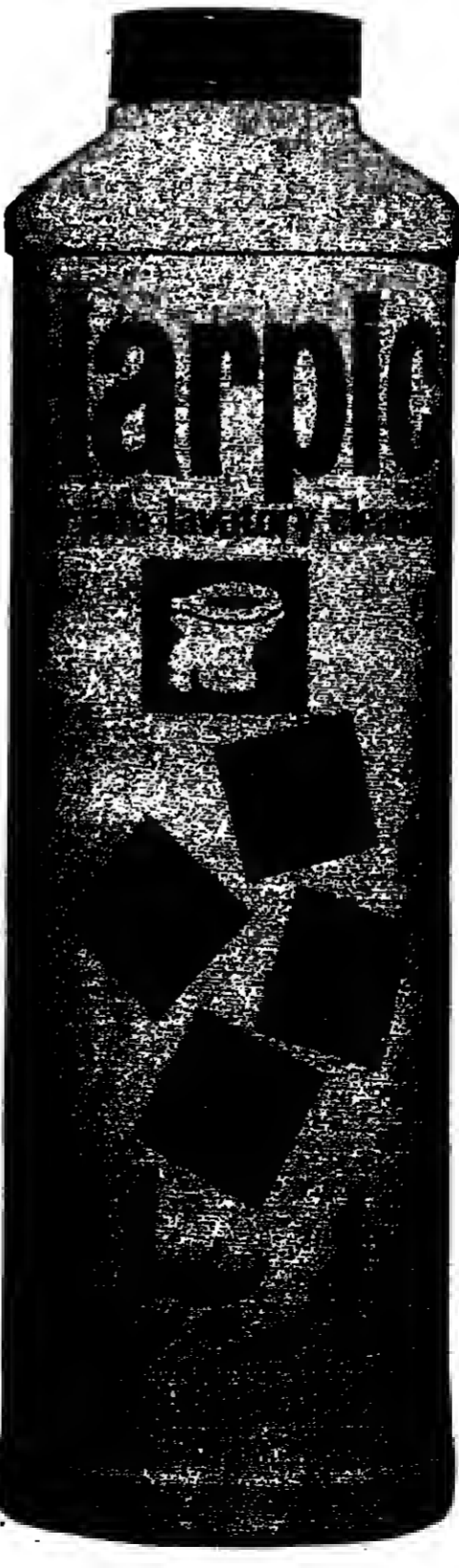
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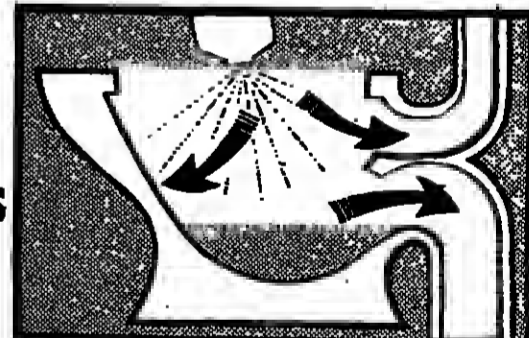
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WHAT NEWS?

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Contract Bridge **B. Jay Becker**

You Have to Give to Receive

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A K Q 6
 ♥ Q 10 9 3
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ 6 7

WEST
 ♠ 10 6 4 3 2
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ Q J 10 6
 ♣ 9 2

EAST
 ♠ J 9 7 5
 ♥ K J 7 2
 ♦ 6 5 3
 ♣ 6 5

SOUTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ A 6 5
 ♦ A K 9
 ♣ A K Q J 10 4 3

The bidding:
 South West North East
 2♣ Pass 2♥ Pass
 3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
 6♣

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Let's assume South wins the diamond lead, draws trumps, and plays the A-x of hearts in an effort to reach dummy. In the actual hand, this method of play fares badly. East catches the K-J of hearts, exits with a diamond, and the slam goes down two.

But there is a better line of play — and declarer should use it. Leading the A-x of hearts wins only if West has certain special heart holdings, and this is basically only a matter of luck.

Instead, South should make the extraordinary play of leading the three of trumps at trick two! He should be willing to lose a trump trick to the missing nine in order to create a sure entry to dummy to utilize the A-K-Q of spades.

In the actual case, this play proves to be a sensational success. West takes his nine of trumps, but is helpless. Whatever he returns, South is sure to reach dummy with the eight of trumps and discard all his losers on the A-K-Q of spades.

There is a far better chance of making the slam by deliberately losing a trump trick than by drawing trumps and then leading hearts. True, you give away a trick you don't have to lose, but you get back three tricks in exchange. One rarely encounters a bargain like that on the exchange mat these days.

It is certainly not unusual for a contract to fail because declarer lacks communication with dummy. There are sometimes valuable tricks in dummy that are out of reach because declarer cannot cross the stream to cash them.

Consider this deal where South can point to 13 winners — three spades, one heart, two diamonds and seven clubs. However, there's one big stumbling block — the three spade winners are easier to count than to cash.

Your Individual Horoscope
 Frances Drake

FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1981

What kind of day will tomorrow be? To find out what the stars say, read the forecast given for your birth sign.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Keep financial transactions confidential for success. Behind-the-scenes moves pay off. Advice you receive now is misleading.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You're better off counting on the support of friends and important contacts than initiating moves yourself. Downplay ego.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Have faith. Others offer you background support regarding career interests. Avoid clandestine involvements and needless worry.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Though it's not the time for home entertaining, you'll still enjoy your close friends. News from a distance is happy.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Negotiations involving a business move may be complicated and involved, but you'll come up with last-minute solutions. Keep plugging!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You'll want to travel with a favorite companion, but making arrangements may be complicated now. Try to keep costs down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't goof off on the job. If you are rebuffered in your efforts to obtain financing, keep trying. Perseverance brings success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) The fact that you care should be enough to offset other liabilities. Dwell on the positive and be forgiving of a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Distractions interfere with needed work. Home base offers you the peace of mind that will lead to progress. Work overtime if necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Creative activity is favored, but don't mix business with pleasure. Forget about office cares when out on a date with a loved one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Extra activity around home base can frazzle your nerves. However, it's a good time to buy something nice for your home.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Rely on your own efforts to get work done now. Counting on others could lead to disappointment. Don't be self-effacing.

Crossword
 by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Fail
 2 To absorb
 5 Compact
 10 Metal-ware
 11 Of the sea
 12 Cathedral section
 13 Satric
 14 Mien
 16 Give
 17 "Playhouse 90" producer
 18 60 secs.
 19 Caucasian native
 22 — packer
 23 Chose
 24 Wheezes
 25 — outlet
 26 Literary giant
 27 Be wrong
 28 Nonsense
 29 Bleak
 30 Late actor, — Sloane
 35 Go hungry
 37 Region
 38 More ghostly
 39 Type of factory
 40 Ford dynasty member
 41 Soccer great
 DOWN
 1 Wild guess
 2 Rhode Island's motto

3 Wagnerian lady
4 Katar or sambar
6 Beetle
Bailey's nemesis
6 Mountain (prefix)
7 Rnddown product
8 Start
9 Pours
11 North
Dakota city
15 Like a cupcake
19 Managed

20 Luke Skywalker film
21 Salt (Fr.)
22 " — of La Mancha"
23 Superintend
24 Golfer, Jerry —
25 Delaware's capital
28 Frolic
31 Incline
32 Pa. city
33 Swiss hero
34 Anecdote
36 Cereal plant (obs.)

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Dubai TV Program (Arabic)
 4:30 Children's Show
 5:33 All Star Soccer
 6:32 Hello, Lady
 7:04 To the Mirror Born
 7:29 Adams Chronicle
 8:27 Leo Oran
 9:15

Bahrain TV Program
 Tuesday: 4:00 Quran; 4:25 Today's program; 6:10 Police Surgeons; 6:40 Health Program; 7:00 Daily Arabic News; 8:15 Wrestling; 9:30 English News; 9:55 Tomorrow's program; 10:00 Local Program; 10:20 Professional; 12:00 News.

Ras Al Khaima TV Program
 Tuesday: 6:00 Quran; 6:30 Cartoons; 6:50 Animal Secrets; 8:35 My World And Welcome to It; 8:40 Feature; 10:10 Live! Today; 10:35 Realities.

Dubai Channel 19 Program
 Tuesday: 5:00 Quran; 5:15 Religious Talk; 5:30 Cartoons; 6:00 Dr. M. M. 6:30 English Football; 7:30 Religious Series; 8:00 Local News; 8:10 Interview; 9:00 Arabic Drama; 10:00 World News; 10:35 Song; Program Review; 10:50 Open Program.

Dubai Channel 22 Program
 Tuesday: 6:00 Quran; 6:15 Cartoons; 6:30 Phoenix and the Gospel Watch all night; 7:00 Family Affairs; 7:30 Thrillers; 8:00 Islamic Horizons; 8:30 Local News; 8:10 Dallas; 9:00 Rivals of Sherlock Holmes; 10:00 World News; 10:25 Quinn Walker; 10:50 Hawking.

Kowait Channel 2 Program
 Tuesday: 7:00 Cartoons; 7:35 Big Blue Marble; 8:00 News in English; 8:15 Eight is enough; 9:00 Survival; 9:30 Rendevous En Mer; 10:15 Literature and Writers.

Qatar TV Program
 Tuesday: 5:00 Quran; 5:30 Open Seams; 6:30 News; 6:45 What the Papers Say; 7:00 Energy; 7:45 Arabic Series; 8:30 Arabic News; 9:00 TV Magazine; 10:00 English News; 10:20 Local Series; 11:15 Debates in London.

Qatar TV Program
 Tuesday: 5:00 Quran; 5:05 Today's Program; 5:10 Students' Program; 6:15 Cartoons; 6:30 Adult Education; 6:30 Games of Fun; 7:30 Sports Magazine; 9:30 Local Arabic News; 9:30 Song; Soldiers' Diary; 10:00 English News; 10:20 Arabic Film; 11:30 News; 11:55 Quran.

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 Al-Mustashak Pharmacy
 Al-Hajar Pharmacy
 Al-Kharyam Pharmacy
 Al-Mustashak Pharmacy
 MEDINA
 Quba's Pharmacy
 Al-Batary Pharmacy
 Al-Badi Pharmacy
 YAF
 H. Balhah Pharmacy
 Al-Sawal Pharmacy
 QAHMAM
 Al-Hajar Pharmacy
 KHOBAR & THOQBA
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 Al-Sawal Pharmacy
 JUBAIL
 Al-Sawal Pharmacy
 BAH & BALJASHM
 Al-Ghath Pharmacy
 Al-Rabiah Pharmacy

SAUDI ARABIAN ENGLISH SERVICE
 Tuesday

SECTION FRANCAISE JEDDAH
 Tuesday

Al-Ahram Translation
 7:00 Tuesday
 7:30 Holy Quran
 8:00 Program Rev.
 8:10 News of Qadisiyah
 8:20 Light Music
 8:25 On Islam
 8:30 Selection of Music
 8:35 Light Music
 8:40 The News
 8:45 Press Review
 8:50 Light Music
 8:55 Science Journal
 9:00 Light Music
 9:05 Closesdown

Evening
 8:00 Holy Quran
 8:05 Program Review
 8:07 News of Qadisiyah
 8:12 Light Music
 8:15 The Evening Show
 8:20 Champions of Solidarity
 9:00 Islam a Cultural Tapestry
 9:15 World of Gutter
 9:20 S. Chronicle
 9:45 Bouquet
 9:45 Round & About
 10:15 Today's Short Story
 11:00 In the Quiet
 11:30 Light Music
 11:45 A Tenderous Wish Drums
 12:00 Closesdown

BBC
Evening Transmission
 8:00 World News
 8:09 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
 8:30 Sarah Ward
 8:45 World Today
 9:00 Newsday
 9:30 Opera Star
 10:00 World News
 10:09 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
 10:30 Sarah Ward
 10:45 World Today
 11:00 World News
 11:09 Reflections
 11:15 Piano Style
 11:50 Brain of Britain 1978
 12:00 World News
 12:09 British Press Review
 12:15 World Today
 12:30 Financial News
 12:40 Look Ahead
 12:45 The Tony Mytt

Evening Transmission
 8:30 Take One
 8:45 Sports Round-up
 9:00 World News
 9:09 News about Britain
 9:15 Radio Newsworld
 9:30 Farming World
 10:00 Outlook News Summary
 10:39 Stock Market Report
 10:43 Look Ahead
 10:45 Ulster in Focus
 11:00 World News
 11:09 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
 11:15 Talkabout
 12:45 Nature Notebook
 1:00 World News
 1:09 World Today
 1:25 Financial News
 1:35 Book Choice
 1:40 Reflections
 1:45 Sports Round-up
 2:00 World News
 2:09 Commentary
 2:15 The Face of England

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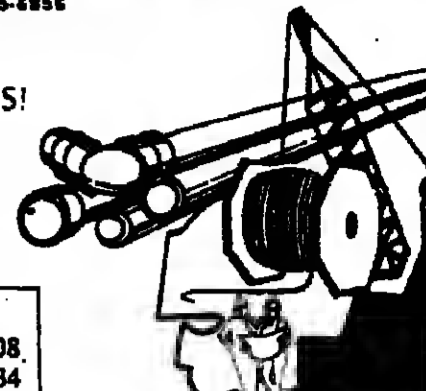
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Weinberger says

Salvador arms flow from Cuba reduced

WASHINGTON, March 9 (Agencies) — U.S. Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger has said that shipments of arms from the Soviet bloc through Cuba to leftist rebels in El Salvador had slowed down.

The Reagan administration has said that the arms are being supplied by Communist nations to help the insurgents overthrow El Salvador's ruling junta.

U.S. budget may cut spending

WASHINGTON, March 9 (R) — President Ronald Reagan will propose the first budget of his presidency Tuesday calling on Congress to enact unprecedented tax and spending cuts aimed at pumping new life into the U.S. economy.

The general outlines of the budget for the 1982 financial year, which begins Oct. 1, are already known.

The president has already asked Congress for the largest tax cut package in U.S. history — to reduce income taxes by 10 per cent a year for the next three years.

Like the tax cuts, the proposed spending reductions are unprecedented in size, and come in virtually every area except defense, which will be increased considerably.

In news conferences and televised addresses to the nation, Reagan has argued that failure to enact his program will lead the United States into the worst economic calamity since the great depression of the 1930's.

Public opinion polls have indicated that the American people are solidly behind the president, but there have been signs that Congress will not automatically rubber-stamp his proposals.

At the same time, many leading private economists are skeptical about whether the Reagan plan can achieve all its lofty economic targets.

Asked about a Soviet diplomat's statement last week that the reports of arms shipments were 'James Bond fiction,' Weinberger replied: 'In this case, fact may be stranger than James Bond fiction.'

In another television interview, the minister counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, Vladimir Vasev, denied that the Soviet Union was financing arms shipments to guerrillas in El Salvador.

'Salvador is not a problem of Soviet-American relations,' Vasev said, adding that Moscow was not in favor of 'the export of revolution.'

Secretary of State Alexander Haig was quoted by Time magazine as saying that the Soviet Union and Cuba had a strategy to create Marxist-Leninist regimes in central America — 'Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in the first phase.'

The problem was whether the American people and those who shared their values would continue to turn their backs on such illegal interventions, or insist that the future of El Salvador should be decided by the people of that country.

Meanwhile the Chinese magazine Peking Review said Monday that — China ... has not provided any weapons to the guerrillas in El Salvador, but Cuba has turned over some old Chinese arms to them.

'Cuba, which has ulterior motives, has sent them to the guerrillas of El Salvador. Under the guise of 'supporting' the national liberation movement, the Soviet Union is interfering through Cuba in the political affairs of El Salvador and contending with the United States for hegemony, thus making the situation in that country more complicated than ever,' the magazine added.



PEASANTS GATHERING: Salvador's Junta member Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich addresses a large gathering of peasants at Hacienda San Isidrio Sunday on the first anniversary of agrarian reform in El Salvador.

Kampuchean front talks begin in N. Korea today

PYONGYANG, March 9 (AFP) — Former Kampuchean leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk will begin talks here Tuesday with visiting Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan on the formation of an anti-Vietnamese front in Kampuchea.

The prince, who has agreed to become the chief of the front and head of state, will meet Khieu in a palace here which North Korean President Kim Il-Sung has put at their disposal.

The prince has laid down a number of conditions for entering into an alliance with the Khmer Rouge — his former enemies. In exchange for his agreement to become head

of state of Democratic Kampuchea and head of the united front, he is asking for military aid from China and the United States for the creation of a 'Sihanoukist' army independent of the Khmer Rouge.

The Vietnamese army ousted the Khmer Rouge regime from Phnom Penh in January 1979, replacing it with a pro-Vietnamese regime defended by about 200,000 Hanoi troops.

A former Khmer republic premier, in Tam and a former minister of Sihanouk Nhiek Tioulong, will also take part in the talks. The Khmer republic regime came to power following the 1970 coup in which the prince was overthrown.

America decides to stall negotiations on sea law

UNITED NATIONS, March 9 (AP) — The Ronald Reagan presidential administration, seeking better terms for American companies that want to mine the mineral riches of the sea, has decided to stall what was to have been the final round of U.N. sea law negotiations opened here Monday.

But as one diplomat here puts it, the administration's decision has made the developing countries "mad as hell."

But instead of getting an international treaty ready for signing this fall, the diplomats will face a U.S. effort to reopen the most controversial section of the proposed accord to renegotiation.

'We want to improve assured access for private industry to mine the deep seabed,' said a U.S. official who asked not to be identified.

A spokesman cited "serious problems" with the deep seabed mining provisions of the complex treaty, which has 320 articles, eight annexes and a preamble.

Only last August, after an apparent breakthrough at the previous session in Geneva, former U.S. chief negotiator Elliot L. Richardson said it was "all but certain" the treaty would be completed in New York.

Reflecting deep concern by private U.S. mining interests, a plank in the Republican Party platform said the sea law negotiations had "served to inhibit United States exploitation of the seabed for its abundant mineral resources."

Uganda tribesmen flee into Sudar
NIVULE, SUDAN, March 9 (AP) — Paddling wooden canoes, trekking across rough mountain trails, hundreds of Ugandans are fleeing into Sudan to escape clashes with the forces of Ugandan President Milton Obote.

Obote, who in early December became the first deposed African leader to regain power by election, is under attack from the Uganda freedom movement militia, which refugees arriving here say supports exiled former Ugandan strongman Idi Amin.

bed mining with insufficient attention paid to gaining early American access to it.

Deep seabed mining — the multi-million-dollar hunt for fist-sized nodules of nickel, cobalt and other minerals scattered on the sea floor at depths of up to 20,000 feet — has proved to be one of the most contentious issues during the seven years of treaty negotiations.

Australia permits B-52 base

CANBERRA, March 9 (Agency) — Australia has given approval for American B-52 bombers to use Darwin as a refueling base for surveillance flights over the Indian Ocean.

Northern Territory Chief Minister P. Everingham said in Canberra Monday that Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser had told him officially the B-52s would be coming to Darwin.

Everingham said he was not concerned aircraft might carry nuclear weapons on their missions through Darwin.

The result of the Ugandan unrest has been that an average of 300 refugees per day arrive in this small town on the white Nile.

45 tourists die in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, March 9 (AP) — At least 45 persons were killed and 120 injured when a train bringing tourists back from a weekend at the Argentine seashore collided early Sunday with two derailed freight cars, police said.

The passenger train was en route from the resort city of Mar Del Plata, south of here, to Buenos Aires when the accident occurred at Coronel Brandsen city, 97 kms south of this capital.

The train was carrying 800 passengers, mostly tourists, officials said. Police said five cars of the passenger train jumped the tracks after striking the derailed freight cars from a previous train.

'I was sleeping and when I woke up everything was coming down on me,' said one of the passengers. 'I thought it was a dream, but then I heard shouts and realized it was all true. I started screaming and a guy pulled me out through the window.'

The first thing I did was cover my children with my body,' said a mother who was traveling with her daughter and two sons.

Dollar, gold rise

LONDON, March 9 (AP) — The dollar increased slightly in quiet European trading Monday. Gold prices rose.

The dollar gained against the British pound, however, ahead of Tuesday's budget to be delivered by Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Train crash

The 13-car passenger train — the "Lucifer-naga" or lighting bug — smashed into the tank cars while braking, sending the engine and five cars off the track.

'I was sleeping and when I woke up everything was coming down on me,' said one of the passengers. 'I thought it was a dream, but then I heard shouts and realized it was all true. I started screaming and a guy pulled me out through the window.'

The dead included five passengers who had been put off at an earlier station for raiding without tickets on the roof, but had managed to sneak aboard again.

In Tokyo, the dollar fell nearly two yen in heavy trading, closing at 207.35 yen, down from 209.25 Friday.

In Zurich the metal traded for \$473.25, a troy ounce, up from \$470.75 late Friday.

In Hong Kong, rose \$4.19 to close at \$475.09. In New York Friday gold finished at \$466.

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